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Majles Sessions

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions 1
* 21 Feb *[22 Feb]* 1
* 24 Feb *[25 Feb]* 6
* 28 Feb *[1 Mar]* 12
* 2 Mar *[3 Mar]* 16
* 3 Mar *[4 Mar]* 25

RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

* 21 Feb

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[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from Tehran, Bostanabad, Maku, Hashtrud and Ahvaz gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda, and questions were also presented from the deputies to the minister of heavy industries concerning the reason for the sale of the Arak Aluminum plan. We now direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the full proceedings of the Majles.

'Ali Naqi Seyyed Khamushi, Deputy From Tehran

It is now time for the government to come back and repay its debt to these people, who have not spared any sacrifice.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was 'Ali Naqi Seyyed Khamushi, deputy from Tehran. [Passage omitted on IRI revolution.]

He mentioned the strong support the government receives from the people, and said: In the president of the republic's trips to various parts of the country, including his recent trip to Bushehr, we saw how the cities came to a standstill along his route and the people came out to meet him. The noble people of our nation have withheld nothing from the government in the way of sacrifice and material and spiritual support, but have the government organizations given our worthy people the services they need? We can also ask, in what way has our administrative system failed to fall short? Look at the budget the Majles recently enacted. The Majles's positive, constructive, and expert approach to this budget could have inspired praise from the people of the world.

He then discussed his trip to France. He said: The French deputy minister of foreign affairs said to me: This constructive approach was very interesting to us. You deputies know better than anyone that presenting a budget to the legislature in most nations of the world is seen as a fight to settle personal and factional accounts. That government presented such a huge budget to our Majles and every deputy looked at it only from the expert perspective, attempting to increase its positive aspects, while eliminating or minimizing any nonpositive aspects.

Khamushi said that the unity and unanimity between the government and the Majles on the matter of rebuilding the country is truly worthy of praise. He said: The budget given to the government for next year has no deficit for the first time in five years, despite its huge and unprecedented size. Tax revenues in this budget are 50 percent higher than last year.

He added: Our dear people earn revenue through their labor and effort, and fortunately, with sacrifice and self-denial, every year they pay a greater share of their income as taxes. Although the tax rate in our country is still lower than some others, tax-collecting officials claim that in recent years the people have been paying their taxes much better.

There are thus no intractable problems in the government's path. It is now time for the government to come back and repay its debt to these people, who have not spared any sacrifice. The administrative system and each official must work and cooperate at the national level. Unfortunately, we may have many weak spots in this area. We can truly say that our president is waiting for some high-level officials to assume the burden of responsibility, to the point where some of the ministers and officials in the national organizations will see power as an aura of occupational privilege.

He emphasized: This year we were faced with an unwelcome crisis of payments, which was caused by the lack of management, and it was portrayed in such a way that you would think Iran is bankrupt. If the officials felt a sense of responsibility to the Majles, the president of the republic, and above all, the people, such a thing would not happen.

Incidents that could have been avoided have caused unwelcome damage. One could mention the winter oil distribution malfunctions in such a year, such as our foreign oil sales crisis and the drop in oil prices that eclipsed all our development programs.

Continued indifference to the construction of appropriate flood walls and leaving some of the cities and certain inhabited areas endangered by floods every year are other examples.

What our country needs more than anything else is a sound administration and a competent administrative system.

Mohammad Esma'il Delbari, Deputy From Bostanabad

It is incumbent upon all the nation's officials to show appreciation for this great nation with worthy service.

Mohammad Esma'il Delbari, deputy from Bostanabad, was the next pre-agenda speaker.

He discussed the slaughter of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and said: The silence of the international societies has proved that at sensitive times these organizations follow the desires and goals of the great powers, especially America, and are not willing to take serious steps. It is therefore incumbent upon the Muslim nations of the world to save the Muslim nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in any way possible, following the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The speaker then mentioned that the people of Afghanistan must appreciate the victory they have achieved. If

they think only of trivial and factional interests, they must realize that it will be a great crime and they will not see the face of peace.

He then said: The people have been encouraged to invest in producing good things, but with the unbridled importation of foreign goods a death blow is being dealt to domestic production that will be irreparable. Therefore the government must plan and set quotas on foreign imports so that domestic production will not be damaged and domestic producers will be competitive enough to improve the quality of goods as much as possible.

The policy of an open economy, which of course must be controlled, also demands an open political atmosphere. All concerned factions who defend the Islamic government and who have shown their support in practice can play their role in the political, economic, and social affairs of this nation. If the idea is to expel other factions by making accusations and thinking in one dimension, it will damage all the factions who believe in the government. Discrediting the prominent people who have invested in this revolution with all their being both before and after the revolution will benefit no one except the government's enemies. It is therefore necessary for all the groups who defend Islam to remain united in this sensitive time.

Continuing, the speaker thanked the people of his electoral district for electing him. He said: If threats were used in the elections and if there were fateful elements in the elections, and, God forbid, if deputies find their way into the Majles in the future using this method, it will certainly be disgracefully oppressive to the people.

In conclusion he proposed that the government at least take serious steps to create educational, industrial and agricultural service centers in the rural areas. [passages omitted on the revolution, the plane crash, and the floods]

Ghaffar Esma'il, Deputy From Hashtrud

The government and the Majles must do a basic reassessment of the writing of the second Five-Year Plan, and they must do some basic thinking on attracting government and private capital.

Ghaffar Esma'il, deputy from Hashtrud, also a pre-agenda speaker, discussed the demonstration march on 22 Bahman [11 Feb]. He said: [passages omitted on the IRI revolution]

It is hoped that during the elections for the president of the republic, once again the people will rub the enemy's nose in the dirt with their splendid turnout.

The deputy from Hashtrud added: Despite the basic change in the budget, which was made for the first time in 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] regarding the nation's foreign exchange rate, not only did it not create the slightest inflammation among the people towards the Majles and its good management, it also brought hope to the people and the government. In this process, special emphasis was given to increasing the budget percentage for development compared to current expenses, and priority was given to education and training and higher and medical education in the deprived areas, for farmers, and especially for those who have sacrificed.

He added: One of the outstanding features of the Islamic economy is its observance of social justice. It was thanks to this basic characteristic that Paragraph 5 of the first Five-Year Plan Law provided that by the end of the year 1372 the deprived areas would be at the level of the advantaged provinces in the year 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990]. Unfortunately, this was not entirely achieved. The main reasons were the unavailability of budget and investment funds and the lack of coordination of the factors, especially inattention to manpower and management in these areas, the failure to encourage investors, and the government's failure to act on its commitments to investors. This failure to achieve is not confined to this part of the country. Its wide reach also extends to the advantaged provinces, especially Tehran.

When the per capita income, employment, relative comfort, industrial and educational centers and subsidies all fail to meet the daily needs of residents of the regions, they will be forced to descend on Tehran. This movement, will prevent the achievement of goals in all areas, whether they are coming or leaving, and it will disrupt the balance and composition of society throughout. On the one side, the educational and health care centers and ... will remain unused, and on the other side, housing, energy, water, education, health care and services will not take responsibility. Therefore, as a whole, the entire country will suffer on both areas. Despite the government's efforts and in general those of all the insiders to repair these malfunctions, the gap will still become wider. It is therefore incumbent upon the government and the Majles to do a basic reassessment of the writing of the second Five-Year Plan, and they must do some basic thinking on attracting government and private capital.

As long as the factories, the centers of higher education, the faculties and employment opportunities are confined to the major cities, this will not be achieved, emigration will be inevitable, and we will be caught up in bad planning. If the second Five-Year Plan is written with the same perspective as the first Five-Year Plan, it will not be a practical answer, the population will still pour into the major cities, and we will have to wait some time for the right answer to change this direction. Not only must the subsidies for basic goods be the same in both the cities and the rural areas, but also basic attention must be given to investment in this part of the country in order to observe social justice.

Continuing, he noted: The project of extending society into the rural areas demands more attention in the second Five-Year Plan from the government and the

Majles to serious population control according to manpower, making proper use of potential and actual capabilities and developing potential in all parts of the country.

In conclusion, the deputy from Hashtrud gave thanks for the recent legislation making the decrees issued by the seven-person councils immune to appeal, which brought hope to farmers, and he expressed the hope that when this legislation becomes permanent the rural areas will be cleansed of the leech-like feudal khans, and that it will open the door to agricultural growth and development, which is one of the most crucial sectors.

Seyyed Mohammad Reza Movalizadeh, Deputy From Ahvaz

Seyyed Mohammad Reza Movalizadeh was the final pre-agenda speaker. [passages omitted on IRI revolution]

He noted that Martyr Chamran University and the Medical Sciences University of Ahvaz suffered great losses during the imposed war, and unfortunately these losses have not in any way been redressed. He asked Mr. Hashemi, president of the republic, to look into this matter.

The deputy from Ahvaz asked the Plan and Budget Organization to put the Ahvaz colleges of health care and dentistry into operation as soon as possible, and he called upon the minister of health care, treatment and medical education to change the executive directorship of the Khuzestan Province Health Care and Treatment Organization, which is the desire of almost all the deputies of Khuzestan Province.

He added: The city of Ahvaz has a seminary and several universities, which are among the nation's important academic, educational, and cultural centers, and in view of the long and deeply rooted record of academic work in this city, the existence of these centers, and also the special success of the province of Khuzestan as one of the important gateways to the Islamic nations, I call upon the respected chief of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council to order a study on the creation of an international university in this city, which could play an important role in the export of the revolution.

He noted that there are 160,000 unemployed people in Kuzestan Province, which is a disturbing figure, and called on officials, who deal with these matters, to solve this social problem.

Legislation

Motion To Reject the Proposed Law To Issue Deeds for Lands Subject to Land Reform in the Urban and Rural Areas

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the report from the first consultation of the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission on the rejection of the Proposed Law To Issue Deeds for Lands Subject to Land Reform in the Urban and Rural Areas, of which the general form was approved.

Article 1 of this motion says: As of the date of this law's enactment, the Registry Organization is required to issue deeds for all lands subject to urban and rural land reform in the cities and rural areas covered by the law.

Bill Exempting Personnel and Workers in Maritime Organizations From the Payment of Taxes

The second item on the agenda was the Bill Exempting Personnel and Workers in Maritime Organizations From Payment of the Taxes Given in Article 7 of the Law To Collect Certain Government Revenues and Spend It on Specific Matters (returned from the Guardian Council), for which the commission's amendments were approved by the deputies.

It is necessary to mention that the legislation approved by the Majles said that the families of personnel in maritime organizations are exempt from the payment of taxes outside the country.

Guardian Council's Objection: This Legislation Will Reduce the Government's General Revenues

Commission Amendment:

Article 1: All personnel and workers in maritime organizations who have valid sailing credentials issued by the Ports and Shipping Organization, or from ships and vessels belonging to the government for the purpose of performing assigned duties outside the nation's maritime boundaries are exempt from the payment of the taxes given in Article 7 of the Law To Collect Certain Government Revenues and Spend It on Specific Matters, enacted 8/20/1369 [11 Nov 1991].

Note: If the spouses and children of such personnel are accompanying them with the approval of the relevant organization, they may also make use of the provisions of this law.

Bill Exempting All Scholarship Students and Faculty Sent Abroad

The next item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission concerning the Bill Exempting All Scholarship Students and Faculty Sent Abroad for the Purpose of Completing Higher Education or Making Use of Study Opportunities From the Payment of Document Registration Fees for the Submission of Official Commitments, all of which was approved.

Article 1 of this bill says: As of the date of this law's enactment, faculty members of universities, institutions of higher learning and research, and faculty members of the staff colleges of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education who are sent abroad to make use of study opportunities and also scholarship holders and

students who are sent abroad to complete higher education and are required to submit official commitments, are exempt from paying any document registration fees, regardless of the amount.

Amendment to Article 16 of the Majles Elections Law

The fourth item on the agenda was the report from the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning the proposed law to amend Article 16 of the Majles Elections Law enacted 12/9/1362 [28 Feb 1984] and the removal of its notes. After discussion and study the overall form of the bill was put to a vote and approved. Then the Majles took up the details of the bill.

Article 1: As of the date of this law's enactment, Article 16 of the Majles Elections Law enacted 12/9/1362 is amended as follows and its notes are deleted:

Article 16: Midterm elections to the Fourth Majles will be held in the electoral districts of Abadan, Khorramshahr, Qasr-e Shirin, Mehran, Dehloran, and Dasht-e Azadegan, and within the limits of the municipalities in the same province where there are at least 100 refugee families from the imposed war.

Request for Investigation and Interpellation of a Number of Deputies Concerning the Fire at the Shiraz Communications Warehouse

The next item on the agenda was the request for investigation and interpellation of a number of deputies concerning the fire at the Shiraz communications warehouse.

In explaining this request, the expert from the Power Commission said: After the incident, the Post and Telegraph Commission invited the minister of post and telegraph and he heard them talk. A number of deputies from that electoral district also asked questions, and the incident was portrayed as having great importance. The need to observe security must be impressed upon all organizations so that, God willing, such things will not take place. Then one of those presenting the proposal, Mr. Nejabat, said: Millions of dollars, marks, and rials were lost, and that came out of the public treasury. It was a major issue. A great fire has taken place at one of the nation's reputable warehouses. In Sianur warehouse, not even the most primitive security measures were used to fight fires. It must be specified, what was the reason for the fire? The entire 12,000-meter ceiling of the warehouse collapsed. I respect the officials with all my being, but we will have to answer in the next world.

A vote was then taken and the request was approved.

Islamic Punishments (Penalties) Bill

The final item on the agenda was the request from a number of deputies concerning the return of the Islamic Punishments (Penalties) Bill to the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission in accordance with Article 85 of the Constitution. This request was not accepted by the Majles and was rejected.

It is necessary to mention that in accordance with Article 85 of the Constitution, when necessary the Majles may submit some laws to its internal commissions. In this case these laws are experimentally implemented for the period of time designated by the Majles, and their final approval is done by the Majles.

Likewise in this session the arrival was announced of the questions from Mr. Saveji, deputy from Tehran, to the minister of roads and transportation concerning the recent train and aircraft accidents.

Likewise at yesterday's open Majles session, Mr. Nateq-Nuri announced that the Majles deputies will donate three days of their salaries to support flood victims.

Question to the Minister of Heavy Industries on the Sale of the Arak Aluminum Factory

Deputies Sharifi, Moqaddam-Firuz and Astaneh asked the minister of heavy industries about the sale of the Arak aluminum factories and requested an answer from the minister.

Mohammad Astaneh, one of the questioners, explained the question. He said: Before presenting the question to the Majles, it was raised in the Industries and Mines Commission, and the answer from the minister was not satisfactory. The questions are as follows:

1. What was the procedure for selling 67 percent of the Arak sheet aluminum factories at one time?

2. What was the procedure for the pricing and sale of the above factories by installment payments?

3. Who is the buyer, and how did he become the buyer of the factory?

Continuing, he said: The Arak sheet aluminum factories group are among the existing factories in the best part of the city of Arak, and they have very high capabilities, efficiency, and return. This factory has 22 hectares of land, and if you want to turn it over at the current price, the price for the land alone will be very high. Currently there are 16,355 meters of indoor space. A variety of different machines have been previously purchased and put into operation in this factory. There are more than 8,000 items and parts in the factory. There are about 44 vehicles of various types, sheet rolling machines, and other things.

1. Why was the sale done wholesale on the public stock exchange and on installment payments, when in view of the selling price the factory could easily have been sold on the market publicly? Could it be said that selling it wholesale on the stock market was so that it could be sold on wholesale basis to selected individuals?

2. In view of the fact that sale by installment has no legal basis among the ministers, why was this factory sold on installment payments?

We believe that the price of the factory is higher than the selling price.

3. With regard to the purchaser, explain why this buyer became your customer, when he does not have the qualifications that he should have.

It is necessary to mentione that 67 percent of this factory was sold for 14.65 billion rials.

Answer From the Minister of Heavy Industries

After the completion of the question by one of the questioners, Nezhad-Hoseynian answered: The reason for the sale was based on 4.37 of the first Five-Year Plan Law. At the same time, measure 61194 dated 11/20/1370 [9 Feb 1993] requires the Council of Ministers and the Development Organization to sell 67 percent of the 14 companies covered in Paragraph A of the National Industrial Preservation and Development Law. One of the 14 companies is this very Arak Sheet Aluminum Company.

One task, which pertains to all of the companies, is upper structure reform and conversion to public corporations, and this is the reason for the request for acceptance on the stock market. After acceptance on the stock market, there is a pricing committee on the stock market that sets the base share price for the factories. On 5/14/1371 [5 Aug 1992] after the work of reforming the structure of the company had been going on for about five months, the stock-market pricing committee accepted this company into the stock market. It set the base price, and as of that time this company entered the stock market at the rate of the companies that are already in the stock market. The reason why 67 percent of the shares were sold at once, is because there is no buyer for the shares of this company on the market. Therefore, there is no point in selling the shares through the market.

He then added: With regard to the single purchaser, we prefer with regard to reforming the company in the industry that the factories have coordinated management, and at least a unified group to manage the company. There are now three procedures for setting the prices of factories that are to be sold.

1. The official expert method of the Ministry of Justice.

2. The profit calculation method, which determines what the company's profits were in the last three years and multiplies that figure by five (meaning five times the amount), according to which the price of each share was 5,477 rials.

3. The third method is the Central Bank indicator method. Using that method the price of each share was calculated at 5,488 rials, and the final price set for it was 6,500 rials, which was the highest of the three methods.

Concerning the buyer, Nezhad-Hoseynian said: When we received the measure enacted by the Council of Ministers in Bahman 1370 [21 Jan-19 Feb 1992], in the month of Esfand [20 Feb-19 Mar] we placed an advertisement in various newspapers saying that we were selling 67 percent of the shares of those factories, and we said that those interested in buying the shares should contact us. Five groups contacted us this year. Four groups expressed an interest at the base price, and the fourth group, after four months of negotiation with the Development Organization, agreed to the price of 50 tomans [as published] for the company on the condition that it would make four payments over one year. According to the Council of Ministers, the ministers of the industrial ministries have the right to decide to sell the factory at auction, on the stock market or via negotiations. Based on authorization from the Council of Ministers, I had the right to make the decision myself, and so far I have not used my own right. Our procedure is to sell factories to a buyer who has contacted us after we have settled between ourselves on the base price. We take a check as a guarantee of purchase from the buyer (a bank check), and then we place an advertisement that these shares will be transferred either at auction or on the stock market.

If someone contacts us to buy at a price higher than the base price we wrote down, and if these gentlemen with whom we reached an understanding are not willing to pay more, we will give it to the buyer who is willing to pay more. However if someone comes and it is this very person, we are obligated to give it to him at the same price we agreed on. In this regard we advertised four times.

What the Industries and Mines Commission wrote to us was "we did not see any objection in the method of implementing the transfer law." One of the newspapers sensationalized this issue. I personally complained to Mr. Yunisi (the Tehran public prosecutor). The judiciary also studied the case and said there are no violations.

Further Comments by Mahmud Astaneh

Mahmud Astaneh again discussed the questions. He said: Did the Council of Ministers authorize you to sell the factory, and also by installment payments? When you sold it by installment payments and offered it on the stock market, was this done at the market price or not? With regard to the unified foreign exchange rate, what is the total cost of the purchase of a factory, the construction of a unit at the floating foreign-exchange rate and the procurement of construction materials at the free market foreign-exchange rate? If it is transferred someday, it certainly ought to be sold at more than this price. I believe that this was not done.

Mahmud Astaneh added: In this regard we also asked for an explanation from the minister of economic and financial affairs, and regarding this question, which pertains to the stock market, he gave an answer that was not satisfactory.

He added: Did you announce beforehand that you were going to sell this factory on installment payments? Were domestic buyers informed of this stipulation? If it is

possible to sell a factory in the country, this sale absolutely must not be made to a person who has no commitment to Islam and the government, to a person who is not known to us.

He also noted that the factory's sale price is much higher than this figure.

New Answer From the Minister of Heavy Industries

In his new answer to the questions, Dr. Nezhad Hoseynian said: The reason we sold it on installment payments is the measure taken by the Council of Ministers that says, "in cases where the Iran Industries Development and Reconstruction Organization deems it advisable to sell 67 percent of the shares of the companies mentioned in this measure to individual and legal entities at auction or via negotiation, you must inform the Article 2 Commission of the instances. The prerogatives of the commission have been assigned to the ministers themselves."

He also said: You asked why I don't encourage these people (the buyers). I ask you: Since the beginning of the revolution, the government has been giving dollars at the rate of seven-tomans to people who invest in industry. Which one of these people did you go and choose? What has happened, now that someone has come with money to buy the factory at the free price and you say you do not choose them? What kind of approach is this? Why don't you let the atmosphere in the country be free? Why don't you let them buy the factories?

You gave foreign exchange to the people for investment. These matters were not being discussed at all at the time when the dollar was at the rate of seven tomans. He (the buyer) is a person who has 40 percent of the shares of a Belgian company (aluminum work), he has 10 percent of the shares of an aluminum company in Brazil, and he is now investing in Tajikistan. The same man came and invested and no one said to us that this person ought not to be selected. I am surprised that they have given this much of the country's money to a group of people who don't know anything, have no abilities either, and who became rich from government subsidies. These things were never discussed. This is how these buyers operate.

After the remarks by the minister of heavy industries, his questioners were not satisfied and the question was referred to the Questions Resolution Commission.

What the People Are Saying

"What the People Are Saying" is the name of the Majles Public Relations Bulletin, which reflects the complaints of the people to the Majles. Selections from its most recent issue are presented for our dear readers below:

The problem with fuel in some of the schools in the southern part of the city has created cold classrooms. My child caught a severe cold after a day of snow. Why hasn't the Ministry of Education and Training made the necessary investigation?

It is necessary for the government to apply pricing and controls during the time of unification of foreign exchange rates. Please provide the necessary mechanism for this task.

With this situation of high meat, egg and milk prices it is not at all unlikely that in the near future we will be hunting sparrows, doves, and starlings with our children.

Unfortunately most emergency clinics use students during vacations and there are no specialist physicians. I have gone to the local treatment clinic several times and found this to be the situation. I ask the respected officials to investigate.

Every year we have floods in the southern and eastern parts of the country. Why doesn't the Ministry of Energy do the necessary planning to collect surface water and build flood walls?

Why haven't you yet paid the 10-month wages for soldiers serving at the fronts conscripted in 1365 [21 Mar 1986-20 Mar 1987]? It has now been more than six years since that date. When are you going to pay their wages?

The housing rental situation is very bad, and unfortunately no measures have been taken for the renters. Amend the Landlord and Renters Law in such a way that rents are controlled in some way, with rental rates in each area appropriate to the situation. At the same time it should be such that a renter can live in one house for at least three years and not be forced to look for housing and move furniture year after year. Imagine yourself how difficult it is to do this every year.

The southwestern part of the city of Tehran has no gas. It is requested that priority be given to solving this problem.

*** 24 Feb**

93LA0017A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Feb 93 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri, and the deputies from Sarab, Langrud, Urmia, Khansar, and Golpaygan gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda, and the question from one of the deputies to the minister of agriculture was presented.

We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the full proceedings of the Majles.

Mahmud Ruhbakhsh Mehraban, Deputy From Sarab

It is time for public participation to go into action as an independent and basic driving factor in the nation's economy.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Mohammad Ruhbakhsh Mehraban, deputy from Sarab. In his talk he discussed the need to develop the private sector. He said: In view of the Islamic

Republic of Iran's foreign policy on developing economic cooperation, especially with the advanced industrial world, and its domestic policies aimed at coordinating the Majles and the government in order to adopt unified economic measures, it is expected that next year, especially under the Second Five-Year Plan with the continuation of the government's current infrastructure investment policy, the way will be better cleared for improving the economy and making it prosper, and effective steps will be taken to develop private sector economic activity.

He added: Now, with the way cleared for an open economic atmosphere and clear horizons for development, it is time for public participation to go into action as an independent and basic driving factor in the nation's economy, and for the necessary investments to be made to create general companies to implement great production, service, technical, and development projects, because there will be no extensive industrial development without private investment.

The experience with industrial and economic development in the advanced nations shows that the economic development of every great nation has a direct relationship with the amount of investment in that nation, and the higher the return on the investments, the faster the economic growth.

The speaker also added: In dear Iran, because of excessive reliance on oil foreign exchange sources, the nation's industries have developed weakly, and because government and private management were sheltered by subsidized foreign exchange, industries that were mostly protected from the heat of competition, the inability to make use of full capacity was exacerbated, and the effects of weak technology and motivated management were kept out of the ledgers, making the need for a unified foreign exchange rate the logical solution.

He added: The gap between the developed nations and the developing nations is rapidly widening, and in this valley, the only way to narrow this backward gap is to raise the technological, managerial, and specialist capabilities of the committed labor force. Foreign investment and integration in the international economy to benefit rather than be dependent on these things can solve problems and be useful and effective.

The deputy from Sarab then said: Many developing nations can use various methods to create the conditions for development and move beyond underdevelopment by using the nongovernment capital of the financial institutions on the other side of the border for the purpose of transferring technical knowledge and training manpower. Naturally, in economic activity, the more investment resources are available, the more it will be possible to expand activities. Now if foreign investment is available and brought into the country in the framework of existing law and if we have the opportunity to make use of its benefits, why don't we accept it?

If we can bring about economic coordination and development by making use of loose and stagnating capital in Europe, help the nation's technological development, develop the market for nonoil exports, and increase domestic employment by increasing the share of domestic materials in production, why are we afraid of foreign investment? Didn't the European nations benefit from the crisis conditions during the imposed war? Why don't we make use of their stagnation? Why don't we give refuge to the frightened deer of capital, which sees the greatest security for capital in the Islamic Republic? Why don't we attract this kind of nongovernment capital on the other side of the border, and let the people of the world see our Islamic capabilities and ethics?

Continuing, the deputy from Sarab said: Today, attracting foreign capital from competent nations can be a factor in assessing the success of the economic officials. Under international conditions, any nation that can increase its production and added value with temporary foreign investment is effectively creating comfort and a better economic future for its nation. Of course it is also necessary to realize that it is not an easy task to create appealing and desirable conditions for foreign investment.

There is no doubt that if we can equip ourselves to draw foreign capital and make good use of those resources and if we can make real preparations to deliver ourselves from the one-product economy, we will take a positive step in the nation's economic interest.

He then addressed the people of Azarbaijan. He said: Your deputies are doing everything they can to realize the goals and aspirations of the Islamic revolution in the country, and especially in that province.

He praised and thanked the minister of petroleum and the gas company for the timely installation of a gas delivery network in the municipality of Sarab, the minister of agriculture for studying phase one of the region's earth dams, the minister of energy for the preliminary study of holding down the rivers in the area, the minister of industries for protecting the Sarab project, the minister of mines for planning to extract raw powdered aluminum, and the minister of the reconstruction crusade for ordering a study of the welfare of the tribes from Sarab to Meshkin and building a suitable road.

Parviz Siqali-Kowmeleh, Deputy From Langrud

More than 70 percent of the offices in Langrud are rented and the landowners are asking the judicial authorities to vacate them.

Parviz Siqali-Kowmeleh, deputy from Langrud, was the next speaker. He said: The municipality of Langrud, more than 70 years old, has created historical monuments. That city, with its high population and civilized people, now has basic problems. One problem is the potable water in this city, whose more than 70,000 families, in addition to those in its outlying areas, are deprived of this basic need.

He discussed the problem of sewage removal in this city, and he noted that not the least thing has yet been done about the problem of removing garbage. He said: The garbage in Langrud is being dumped in places that threaten the environment. This city does not even have one gym affiliated with the Physical Training Organization, and more than 20,000 athletic youths are seriously suffering from the lack of exercise space, yet they have the best wrestlers, athletes, and sports heros in the province and the nation.

He said: More than 70 percent of the offices in Langrud are rented and the landowners are asking the judicial authorities to vacate them. In this municipality, 50 percent of the rural areas are deprived of lights, and electrical power was installed in only two villages during the last year. Seventy percent of the villages in this municipality are deprived of suitable roads. More than 90 percent of the villages are deprived of drinking water and health care, and the villages on the sea coast are forced to use unhealthy underground brackish water contaminated with bacteria.

He discussed the problem of unemployment in Langrud. He said: Concerning the problem of unemployment, there are about 120,000 registered workers in the province over a period of several years, and about 68.3 percent of the active population in the province is unemployed. This province has the largest unemployment percentage.

He thanked the president of the republic for allocating foreign exchange to the province's silkworm breeders, and he asked the minister of agriculture to make silkworm larvae available to farmers as in past years.

The speaker discussed the shortage of class-room space in the country. He noted: With the shortage of classroom space the urban schools are operating in three or more shifts and the basic reason for that is the lack of the necessary credits in past years. The uncontrolled population growth has brought many people into the group of those who must be educated.

Beytollah Ja'fari, Deputy From Urmia

Instead of getting money for growing beets, the beet growers are getting sugar cubes at 360 rials per kg and are selling them on the free market for 600 rials.

Beytollah Ja'fari, deputy from Urmia, was another pre-agenda speaker. While offering congratulations on the arrival of the month of Ramadan, he discussed the problems in his electoral district. He said: Today Urmia and Baku are portrayed in the national news as the coldest part of the country, and they need help with fuel deliveries from the government. The problem of fuel is tormenting the province, including Urmia. Despite numerous letters from the governor general and the respected deputies of West Azarbaijan, and even though the minister of petroleum arranged to have 600,000 liters per day of kerosene to be sent from the Zanjan area to the provinces, unfortunately only about one-third to one-quarter of that amount has been shipped, and the people are undergoing severe hardship in subzero temperatures.

He then said: The project to coordinate wages was implemented but it is unfortunate that the wages for one to two groups of the oppressed classes and the employees both with and without high-school diplomas were reduced. They have therefore turned to the Interests Discernment Council and have asked it to issue a final opinion as soon as possible.

I am always conveying to officials the cries of oppression from the nation's farmers, especially the toiling people of West Azarbaijan. Again this year about 4.5 million tons of the people's crops, from apples and dried fruits to summer crops, have been left in their hands and the fruits of the labors of these dear ones have gone to waste.

Instead of getting money for growing beets, the beet growers are getting sugar cubes at 360 rials per kg from the factories and selling them out of need on the free market for 600 rials. The situation with the transfer of money for wheat grown to the nation's silos is no better than the situation for beets. They have increased the storage rate in the coolers this year from 27 rials to 60 rials per kg. The working class, especially the workers in the Urmia Oil Company, are complaining about the improper behavior of officials and employers and their deviation from the existing regulations in the Labor Law. Contract workers, especially those employed in the Urmia Medical Sciences University, are worried about the clarification of their employment status.

In conclusion he said: The level of the retirement wages, especially for the deprived educational staff workers, in view of the high prices and the fact that inflation has not been held down, is a deadlock that must be broken, otherwise it will lead to the failure to achieve social justice. The dear tribal peoples, especially the Kurds and those in the mountainous and rural areas of Urmia, are again complaining about the oppression of the feudal khans.

Morteza Shayesteh, Deputy From Khansar and Golpaygan

Hot and dry Saudi Arabia exports wheat, but with all our water and soil, we import wheat.

Morteza Shayesteh, deputy from Khansar and Golpaygan, was the final pre-agenda speaker. During his talk he said: One of the important objectives in pricing agricultural crops and setting guaranteed prices is to create relative equilibrium between the revenues of the agricultural sector and the other sectors, and to let farmers make the best use of the nation's national capital, which is water and soil. Based on Majles legislation in the year 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990], the government has approved guaranteed prices for crops, and this has clarified the situation for crops such as rice, wheat, corn, potatoes, cotton, oil-bearing seeds, onions, and grains.

In Paragraph and Note 5 in the Budget Bill these prices have been organized in such a way that in addition to the fact that inflation is foreseen in these prices, a just profit is also provided for the agricultural sector and the producer. Unfortunately we know that on the Supreme Economic Council the price set for wheat is much less than the cost of producing wheat per hectare, and in view of the fact that the specialist pricing committees set the cost of producing in addition to a just profit at somewhere around 315 rials, they lowered this to 225 rials, and as far as we heard this is what they said. Fifty percent of the grain and 30 percent of some other crop is not possible. The Supreme Economic Council should have an expert team. How is it that if we are to buy agricultural crops from him there is talk about inflation in society, but it is not this way in the other sectors?

I don't know why, in several speeches and press conferences, the minister of agriculture set the prices paid to agricultural organizations for wheat, fertilizer, pesticides, and machinery at 15 to 20 times more. When I was with him, the president of the republic himself said: The price of a kilogram of wheat is more than 20 tomans. With this kind of protection, how do we expect to become self-sufficient, how do we expect to keep from reaching out to other nations?

In Japan, to protect rice growers and to protect their own domestic production, they buy rice at the international price and they distribute it in their society at three times the international price so that their own domestic producer will not go bankrupt. What guarantee is there that our rice imports will not triple next year?

How is it that you increase the price of macaroni several fold, they sell confections for any amount they like, and no one is accountable to anyone? How is it that the price of a slice of bread has become 15 rials?

Who produces this? Who makes the wheat? I ask you, did the gentlemen sit down and give an expert opinion on this situation?

In the year 1368 I myself analyzed the price of wheat. Four years ago it sold for 165 rials per kg, and we bought it from the farmer at 12 tomans.

Brothers, sisters, for God's sake, this subsidy you're paying is not even one-third the price of the fertilizer. I wish you had not done this.

He addressed the officials in the Ministry of Agriculture. He said: You should not speak as experts in the Majles Agriculture Commission and answer questions. I say that both before and after the revolution, they did not give every subsidy we paid to the agriculture sector to the producer.

Do we really want to talk and repeat slogans, or do we want to do infrastructure work? We have given you so many numbers and figures for water management. Now it would be just as well if the floods came and washed away half the country, if the Fourth Majles does not do infrastructure work. We are indebted to this nation and revolution.

He called upon the experts in the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs, the Plan and Budget Organization, and the Central Bank to discuss these matters with the Majles deputies, and to exchange views with them.

Elsewhere in his talk, Morteza Shayesteh said: Please give basic attention to agriculture from the standpoint of infrastructure. Saudi Arabia is a hot and dry desert, but they export wheat. It is a shame for us in this country that while Turkey exports wheat and Pakistan exports wheat, with all this water, land and civilization, we import several million tons of wheat per year.

Legislation

Mashhad Deputy's Question to Minister of Reconstruction Crusade

The first item on the agenda was the question from Mr. Bani Hashemi to the minister of the reconstruction crusade. During his talk he said: Despite the fact that I believe that the reconstruction crusade is a revolutionary organization arising from the midst of the people and with revolutionary characteristics, it must preserve itself in terms of organization and manpower throughout its life. The crusade is a memento of the Imam (peace be upon him) and is one of the organizations that is based on the aspirations of the Islamic revolution.

In view of their characteristics, these organizations can pursue the aspirations of the revolution, but the respected minister of the crusade eliminated the part of the organization that was the Central Council, and its prerogatives were given to the Crusade Planning Council. It is necessary to mention that the Reconstruction Crusade Law was passed by the Majles in 1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989], and the reforms made to the crusade's existing organization were implemented at that time, and ultimately it was the Central Council, which had five members with a background in the reconstruction crusade and also the chief theologian's representative, which gave it it special prerogatives. These prerogatives were to give power to the crusade's guidance and to perpetuate the crusade's management. However, if the minister of the crusade, based on the circumstances of time and place and the responsibilities of the crusade at this time, has concluded that this council creates problems for him, what he should do is present a bill to the Majles to amend the law. However, without presenting a bill to the Majles and without even referring to the Supreme Administrative Council, he issued a set of guidelines on 10/24/1371 [14 Jan 1993] and then after preliminaries pertaining to the problems the Central Council was creating for him, he announced the decision to the provinces that he was transferring the duties of the Reconstruction Crusade Central Council to the Crusade Planning Council. It is clear that the prerogative to appoint and dismiss managers at various levels will

belong to the minister, and if necessary the required consultations will be made with the appropriate authorities.

Minister of Reconstruction Crusade's Answer

In answer to the question from the deputy from Mashhad, Mr. Firuzesh gave a speech in which he said: Because I have no decision on the observations, I will present the views of the exalted leader, then I will write them down and present them to the respected speaker of the Majles. Therefore I must answer conservatively and in terms of what I think is best. Of course if I knew that if the question went to the commission and Mr. Bani Hashemi was not satisfied, it comes to the full Majles. Now that it has come to the Majles, I am certain that he will not be satisfied, and the subject will go back to the Questions Investigation Commission.

He added: The law the respected Majles enacted says: The Central Council cannot exist if it contradicts the prerogatives the Constitution gives to the minister. There were therefore two paragraphs added at my insistence. It is these two paragraphs to which Mr. Bani Hashemi did not refer, and in reality they are what authorize the minister to act according to his prerogatives.

Note 1 - Five members of the Central Council will be chosen and appointed by the minister, in consultation with the Crusade's Central Council and the provinces, from among skilled and committed individuals who are official members of the crusade and who have at least three years of service.

Note 4 - The minister has the right to accept resignations and dismiss each of the five members of the Central Council.

Another paragraph that the Majles insisted on including and does not violate the Constitution is: "Decisions made by the Central Council will be announced by the minister if he approves." The minister of the reconstruction crusade also said: I believe in consultation, and I consider it to be one of a manager's tools for success, but I don't believe in five irresponsible people sitting there and saying we are saying this and you must implement it. If you do it, you are a minister with his hands tied, but you are good. If you don't do it, it is the beginning of a dispute. I am a minister who is responsible to the government and the Majles and I want the reconstruction crusade to be administered and its lawful duties carried out. If the respected Majles gave a vote of confidence to five people (the members of the Central Council) and if they asked the five people about the results of our work, and if these five people answered the question from the deputies, this would be a proper thing to say. However, when one person gives the answers, why all these questions? Will I be associated with the council on judgment day?

Engineer Firuzesh said: What I did is in no way a violation of the law. Some of the things that we are saying belong to the climate of the father Taleqani's era. Through consultation turns the work over to the country. Just as I believe that consultation is a principle in the Majles, I know that in implementation and in a ministry, God knows that only opportunists and do-nothings get into a situation where they run away from their responsibilities. When I do not choose the chief of the crusade organization and the crusade's mines, he does not answer to me. How can I be answerable in turn? The way I perform my religiously lawful duties is between me and God. I have done this task courageously, and God willing it is not illegal. In order for it not to be in a state of isolation, I turned the task over to the Planning Council and it was done quite properly.

Mashhad Deputy Speaks Again

Bani Hashemi, deputy from Mashhad, spoke again concerning his questions. He said: I am surprised that the respected minister has drawn the discussion into other areas, even though I emphasized that I am not talking about the council. You did something that violates the law passed by the Majles. You changed the organizational situation in the crusade, and this is not one of your responsibilities. I have no personal dispute with you. As a person from this country, you must expect a Majles deputy to do his duty if he sees a violation. I saw these problems in your organization and asked about it, and I consider that my duty. You cannot complain to me about asking a question. Concerning what you said, I am not talking about what the exalted leader said. It was good that he said it and everyone knows what he said to you, so that you yourself could write a letter to the president of the republic and tell him what he said. You have said that the Central Council is a violator in the crusade situation. Is this really true? By eliminating the Central Council, you want to take the clergy out of the crusade. As minister you have duties, and you must carry out your duties in the best way, but you cannot do work that is the responsibility of the legislative power. The bad effects of this have been attributed to his management.

He added: It is truly unfortunate that the minister of the reconstruction crusade has to portray the elimination of the Central Council as something he is proud of. This caused experienced manpower in the crusade to leave the organization. The culture of flattery and blind allegiance, about which we have always complained, has taken over the crusade and the spirit of violation prevails there. Unfortunately, this culture is now being propagated in the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade by him, and this is considered one of the calamities besetting the reconstruction crusade. You eliminated the Central Council, along with the representative of the chief theologian, who is a member of the council. The things that the chief theologian's representative, who is a member of the council, said about his lack of coordination with you, are too lengthy to repeat here.

Bani Hashemi emphasized: I call upon the Majles to rescue this revolutionary organization. After the remarks

by the deputy from Mashhad, because he was not satisfied with the answer from the minister of the reconstruction crusade, the question was referred to the Questions Investigation Commission.

It is necessary to mention that during an explanation by the minister of the reconstruction crusade, the speaker of the Majles announced: "The chief theologian's representative is a member of the Planning Council."

Bill To Close Unauthorized Educational, Research, and Cultural Organizations

The second item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission concerning the Bill To Close Educational, Research, and Cultural Institutions That Were and Are Being Operated Without Legal Authorization.

'Alavi, expert from the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission, said concerning this bill: After the triumph of the Islamic revolution, unfortunately some educational, cultural, and research institutions were formed without getting legal authorization from the appropriate ministries, and some of them created disruptions in the nation's cultural affairs. To bring all of them under one set of general laws and regulations, the respected government has presented this bill to the Majles, and it is asking the Majles that all of these institutions, if they have authorization [not legible]. Those who do not have authorization and are operating in violation of the law must be warned to get authorization to be established, and if they do not they will be declared violators and deceivers.

After talks by supporters and opponents, the general form of the bill was put to a vote and approved.

Bill To Amend Article 4 of the Bill Authorizing Importation of the Automobiles of Political Representatives Residing in Iran

The next item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission concerning the Bill To Amend Article 4 of the Bill Authorizing Importation of the Automobiles of Political Consul Representatives Residing in Iran and their Official Members and Appending Two Notes, of which the general form was approved.

Bill on How To Vacate Armed Forces Organizational Residences

The fourth item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the judicial and legal affairs commission concerning the Bill on How To Vacate Armed Forces Organizational Residences, of which the general form was approved by the deputies.

Bill To Amend the President of the Republic Election Law

The final item on the agenda was the Bill To Amend the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Election Law, whose very urgent status had been approved at the previous session. Concerning this bill 15 deputies called for the elimination of the bill's urgent status.

Morteza Nabavi gave a talk discussing this proposal. He said: This method of electing the president of the republic by machine, which they intend to implement in some way, is a very good thing, but since the respected Majles and the deputies are not familiar with the new procedure and neither does the commission know enough about it to discuss it and clarify whether material related the new method needs to be added to the law or not. When it was not clear, it was given very urgent status solely on the basis of a recommendation and some of the provisions that were at variance with the machine method were deleted. The way one hears it discussed, this procedure will not even be implemented everywhere, but it will be done in Tehran. If it is this way, when it was recommended that articles 51 and 52 be deleted, meaning that some of the ballot boxes will be moved from the districts to the municipalities and from the municipalities to the Ministry of the Interior, then how will this procedure be carried out?

The deputy from Tehran then added: Therefore, with very urgent status one will not be able to study all the dimensions and bring the matter to a conclusion in order to form a fully considered law. It is recommended that the bill be dropped from very urgent to urgent status.

After talks by opponents and supporters, removal of the bill's urgent status was put to a vote in the presence of the Guardian Council and approved.

Therefore the vote was sent to the appropriate commission for further study.

Zarand Deputy's Guidelines Notice

Motahari, deputy from Zarand, gave a guideline notice about determining the status of the research and investigation project, which is now being studied in the appropriate commissions. He called on the Majles Speaker's Council to look into this matter.

In this regard he said: About five months ago, with the signature of a group of deputies, three research and investigation projects approved by the Majles were presented, and there is no information of what became of them: (1) The motion to research and investigate the incident in Mashhad on 5/13/1371 [4 Aug 1992], (2) the motion to research and investigate the Voice and Visage on 6/13/1371 [4 Sep 1992] and, (3) the motion to research and investigate the records of the governors, district governors, and mayors in the province of Kermanshahan on 6/31/1371 [22 Sep 1992]. Under the Majles Domestic Guidelines, the period of consideration is one month and can be extended for up to two months. The question is, what is the current status of these motions?

In answer, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: This has been investigated by the Speaker's Council, and the commissions have been asked to give their reports to the Majles as quickly as possible.

* 28 Feb

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[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri and the deputies from Hamadan, Arak, Torbat-e Jam, and behbahan gave speeches. The Majles then took up its agenda and the question from the deputy from Saqez and Baneh to the Minister of Education and Training was presented. We now direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the detailed proceedings of the Majles.

Seyyed Jalal Sadatian, Deputy From Hamadan

I hope the president of the republic will show understanding and present a young and active cabinet for the new term of presidency of the republic. [Passage omitted on the Five-Year Plan, the elections, Rafsanjani's role, all in very general terms]

The deputy from Hamadan then discussed the problems in his electoral district. He said: While the nation's western and southern provinces were subjected to direct attacks, economic activity in those years was directed at some of the central provinces and those far from the battlefield, and because of security issues this was the right thing to do, but the western provinces, including the province of Hamadan, with 3.1 percent of the population and 2.3 percent of the nation's land, got only 0.47 percent of the nation's budget and a total of 1 percent of the nation's resources, resulting in much unemployment and the lack of productive resources in this province.

Seyyed Hoseyn Sharifi, Deputy From Arak

Seyyed Hoseyn Sharifi, deputy from Arak, was another speaker. In his talk he said: In writing the second national development plan, I direct the respected government's attention to several points: Because one of the firm principles of the Islamic movement is and has been adherence to genuine Islamic values and this same adherence to these values has protected this sacred government so far against enemy attacks, it is necessary for all officials to maintain this orientation in all areas, especially in the writing of the second Five-Year Plan, and we must believe the truth that imperialism, with its years of experience dealing with us, will be content with nothing less than drawing us away from our beliefs and orthodox principles.

He then said: We must strive to gradually eliminate the nation's dependence on revenues from crude oil sales by the end of the second Five-Year Plan and to convert this vital substance to byproducts and use their high added value to complete the nation's infrastructure resources.

He explained that the first Five-Year Plan must not be the basis for action in the second Five-Year Plan. He said: The development work done in all the provinces must be explained based on the relevant indicators. The development in most of the plan must be in places that are below the average indicators, and one such province is Central Province.

In conclusion he discussed the ignorance of the minister of mines and metals concerning environmental laws and regulations and the pollution caused by the poisons issued by the Arak Aluminum Plan, where the health of a city of several hundred thousand people is being seriously threatened. [passage omitted on world hunger]

Mohammad Hoseyni, Deputy From Torbat-e Jam

By cooperating with each other, the nations of the Third World are capable of wiping the demon of hunger off the faces of innocent people.

He then discussed his electoral district. He said: Torbat-e Jam is in Northeast Iran and has an area of 13.5 thousand square km and a population of 400,000. It is considered one of the nation's poorest areas, and for many years it was subjected to oppression and unkindness by the Pahlavi regime. Despite the significant advances in this sensitive area since the Islamic revolution that made the border dwellers into officials of the sacred government of the Islamic Republic, unfortunately this area is more deprived than the rest of the country. The clergy and people of this area hope to have the honor of having the beloved leader and the president of the republic as their guests.

In conclusion, he reminded the nation's executive officials about building around-the-clock schools in the region's rural areas, building an agricultural and animal husbandry university and building the Payam-e Nur University in Torbat-e Jam.

Lotfollah Zare'i-Qanavati, Deputy From Behbahan

The government's leaders must give up on luxurious buildings and stunning decorations so that they can justly understand the pains and problems of the people.

The third pre-agenda speaker was Lotfollah Zare'i-Qanavati, deputy from behbahan. [passages omitted on Western propaganda]

He added: Oh Majles deputies and government leaders, how happy you are that in the shadow of this leader, on judgment day your case will be set apart from that of others. If you served sincerely and if you dealt honestly with the affairs of the people and the Islamic nation you will be proud in the presence of God, and if, God forbid, you neglect the affairs of the Islamic nation and disappoint this sacrificing nation, you know yourself that the wrath of God will be waiting for you. Lotfollah Zare'i-Qanavati expressed the belief that today our worthy and

sacrificing people are suffering from a number of things. The monsters of high prices and inflation have bloated the administrative system, and the problems include insufficient work and unsound relations, the use of influence and bribery, high youth unemployment, shortages and malfunctions in the free time of many young people, problems with sports and recreational resources for both men and women, the educational problems of the children of Islam, housing problems and the problems with marriage and forming families.

He explained: The respected Majles must not occupy itself with unimportant issues and with motions and bills of little importance whose approval or nonapproval will not solve or cause any problems. Both the Majles and the government must cooperate in this matter. Both must study and investigate in order to rein in the administrative monster, eliminate unsound relationships, and reform the offices in a way that befits Islamic Iran.

He added: The government's leaders must give up on luxurious buildings and stunning decorations so that they can justly understand the pains and problems of the people and sincerely seek solutions so that the people and society will not be disappointed with them.

How can one watch a number of capitalists who are in no pain, who have enormous wealth obtained at the price of poverty for the sacrificing people, go rampaging on a market with no restraints, and put economic pressure on this God-seeking nation? The unified foreign exchange rate hasn't even been implemented yet, and God help us, already they have raised the prices on various goods needed by the people and there is no control over what they do. We Majles deputies and you government leaders must get involved and defend this good and loyal nation.

The deputy from behbahan noted: Every year we have floods in our Islamic country. The flood victims are mostly our hard working and patient rural people and producers.

They are watching the destruction of an era of their labors, and people who have always produced and earned their bread by the sweat of their brows and given bread to others are now waiting to see how they will be helped.

He said: Today it is no longer acceptable with all this progress in science and technology and valuable experience in the prevention of natural disasters for us not to take any acceptable action to prevent losses. Go and ask the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade, the Minister of Energy, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and the Ministry of Roads and Development, what have you done and what are you going to do? Several years of experience? Several years of losses? Isn't that enough?

Elsewhere in his talk he discussed the flood losses to the main connective roads and bridges, rivers, irrigation networks, the Sar Dasht-e Zaydun irrigation canal and rural drinking water supplies. In conclusion, addressing the minister of energy, he said: Respected minister of energy, two weeks ago I requested a fax letter from you giving information on the bel han Marun Dam and the nature of the damage to it . there was no sign of a response, and you gave no information of any kind. Apparently you do not consider it your job to answer to a billion tomans from the public treasury that was washed into the sea by floods.

You also do not consider yourself required to write a letter to me answering for the water and electricity losses in Khuzestan. We have called out to you and written letters asking you to tell us what to do about the people, who are seeking guidance. Where are these rural people without shelter to go? Aren't you willing to clarify the subject for me and the people? Who will answer? Who will save the people?

Legislation

Saqez and Baneh Deputy's Question to Minister of Education and Training

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the question from Mohammad 'Ali Partovi to the minister of education and training.

In his question he mentioned reform of the education and training management in Kordestan. He said: Mr. Habib, general manager of education and training in Kordestan, has been away from Kordestan for some time. Along with the respected deputies from Kordestan, and in view of the sensitivity of the area, the importance of education and training and the fundamental nature of education, I have recommended a number of brothers to take over the management of education and training. Unfortunately our brother Dr. Najafi, the respected minister of education and training, upon receipt of the letters from the deputies and in answer to memos, wrote the following: "the aforementioned person has declined to resign from his current position, and as before he remains the general manager of education and training in the province of Kordestan." They have reported to us through various means that brother Dr. Najafi has evaluated Mr. Habib's management in Kordestan as weak. Unfortunately, upon receiving the letter from the deputies, he withdrew those opinions and Mr. Habib's management is being accepted as correct, despite all the letters and written communications from reliable and experienced teachers and articles in the media.

He then added: Because we were not content to ask questions and did not want the matter to end here, we therefore continued the letters, memos and face-to-face discussions. However, not only did he not stop, but also we were subjected to harsh attacks from him (the general manager) in Kordestan. We have had to discuss this subject in pre-agenda speeches and immediately statements were issued and indifferent people distorted the issues of education in our society. I have the right to ask

why, in the month of Khordad [22 May-21 Jun] last year, were much more than 40 percent of us admitted for study?

Likewise, by order of Hazrat'ali, the general manager of the nation's exemplary and model schools, in a program on admissions rates the question was asked, why is the province's percentage of outstanding children accepted in the elementary, "rahnema'i" [area of specialization], and middle schools one of the three lowest in the nation?

Mr. minister, the deputies have the right to ask why the proud deputy management offices in several municipalities say that we are one of the last three provinces in the nation in terms of the school admissions rate, yet before his management we were among the three or four top provinces in the nation.

Minister of Education and Training's Answer

In answering the question deputy from Saqez and Baneh's question, Dr. Najafi gave a talk in which he said: Mr. Habib asked me to designate someone else as of the beginning of the academic year to permit him to continue work on his masters degree. I agreed to do this. It was on this basis that the matter of his return from the province of Kordestan to Tehran to continue his studies at the university came up. The deputies from the province recommended someone to me. We studied these recommendations and other recommendations that were in the ministry and we concluded that in view of the sensitivity of affairs in the province of Kordestan and the complexity and problems of the task, and in view as well of the positions of Mr. Habib, we could not find someone to replace him so easily.

He then added: We asked him to stay in the province and continue this responsibility, and he agreed. On this basis we wrote a letter to the brothers saying that there was no point in his resignation and in view of the fact that the Ministry of Education and Training's assessment of his work is positive, we were satisfied to have him remain in the province. Then Mr. Partovi, in his pre-agenda speech and in other places began saying things that were quite unfair.

The minister of education and training then recounted Mr. Habib's positive record. He mentioned Mr. Partovi's statement on the province's dropout rate and said: We absolutely did not have a 40-percent admissions rate in Kordestan in the academic year 1370-1371 [1992-1993]. We had an 89-percent admissions rate at the elementary level and an 11-percent rejection rate. At the "rahnema'i" level, we had approximately a 80-percent admissions rate.

We have not had any admissions rates of less than 75 percent in the country. When the information about education is wrong, there is no point in questioning the province management. Based on the report on final examinations for the year 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993], Kordestan is not the lowest ranking province. Indeed, this province is higher than it was in the previous year. Among the 25 general offices in the nation, Kordestan is not the last one. When a province is attacked, the question does not go only to the province general manager, but also the entire educational community of that province is to be questioned. When this is said in error, naturally the province educational community will be unhappy.

Saqez and Baneh Deputy's New Comments

Mohammad 'Ali Partovi then spoke again to discuss his question. He said: The things I talked about in the pre-agenda speech and elsewhere concerning the admissions rate are the statistics the province general manager, Mr. Habib, distributed. I therefore absolutely do not accept those statistics, because the statistics were issued after four rounds of tests in Khordad [22 May-21 Jun], Shahrivar [23 Aug-22 Sep], Azar [22 Nov-21 Dec], and Tir [22 Jun-21 Jul] and naturally the admissions rate is complete after the four examinations. I was talking about the admissions rate just for the Khordad examination.

He then said: As for the minister's statement that we have no one better in the province, than him, this is not right. How is it that we don't? We most certainly do. You say that he is a hezbollah. I also say that he is a hezbollah, but not every believing Muslim hezbollah can be a good manager. Send us a wise, committed and hezbollah manager. Concerning those people of paradise you mentioned previously, "Iran is full of paradises."

He also added: Mr. Minister, is the answer that with those insulting statements you are placing all the ministry's employees in opposition to us? Is the answer that you are issuing guidelines to close the doors to us and all officials for all the schools and training facilities? For what? To keep individuals and hidden things there from being exposed? Is it appropriate for a general manager with proper understanding of the rights of these people, who were always comrades-in-arms in step with the brave nation of Iran throughout all the ups and downs of the righteous struggle against the idolater regime and the Ba'thist regime, to be disrespectful and to state explicitly, "I absolutely do not accept the Kurdish nation," when the deep ties between nations have made Islam strong, and indifference towards such a nation, which is beneath the banner of Islam and is one of the pure Iranian races, is ingratitude towards those people? It is true that we are deprived and poor, but we lack nothing in terms of our human identity. We are proud Muslims.

In conclusion, he added: We believe that today in Kordestan more than anything else we need work, organization and the elimination of deprivation, but ideas and officials like this will mean that organization and the elimination of deprivation will fail.

Minister of Education and Training's New Answer

Dr. Najafi then gave a new answer to the questions asked. He said: Four of the six deputy general managers in the province are Kurds. Of these, two are also local

residents. All of the region's manpower has truly been utilized. Even Mr. Habib's wife is a Kurd and Mr. Habib himself spent practically all of his adolescence, youth and military service time before the revolution in Qorveh, and he grew up there. Therefore, he is a person who himself has ties to those people. As for that claim that he said he does not accept the Kurdish nation, it is clear that your description of the Kurdish nation is based on criteria that, in my view, the revolutionaries do not want. We do not accept this description of the Kurdish nation.

Dr. Najafi added: There was absolutely no disrespect for the deputies in the statements, and if there was, it was for one deputy. That is, in your pre-agenda speech you said things that were printed in the newspapers. Those statements caused anxiety, unrest, and sensitivity among educational employees. In accordance with his lawful duty, the general manager issued a statement in answer to those remarks. This was not directly addressed to any one deputy or deputy speech. The statement was just a defense of the activities of educational employees.

He also noted: I have some things to say on education and training concerning the admissions rate, which has to do with the admissions rate of students in high-level educational programs. At one level, we have three phases, not four phases. The statement that four examinations are given is not really true. There are three examinations, and those are given in the fourth year of high school. Based on a measure enacted by the Supreme Education and Training Council, three phases were established, and this was at the national level, not in the province of Kordestan.

In conclusion, the minister of education and training emphasized: Mr. Habib is one of the supports that the people chant about and he is a hezbollah person who has the competence and worthiness to manage the province. In the last three years the situation in the province has improved with his management.

At the end, because the deputy was not satisfied, the question was referred to the Questions Investigation Commission.

Judiciary Chief's Prerogatives Bill

The second item on the agenda was the report from the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission concerning the Judiciary Chief's Prerogatives and Responsibilities Bill (returned from the Guardian Council), for which the following amendments were approved:

Article 1. As of the date of this bill's approval all the duties and prerogatives assigned in various laws to the Supreme Judicial Council, with the exception of the prerogatives given in the note under Article 1 of the Conditions for Electing Judges Law enacted 2/14/1361 [4 May 1982], are transferred to the chief of the judiciary.

It is worth mentioning that in previous Majles legislation it states that all the prerogatives and responsibilities given to the Supreme Judicial Council in various laws are transferred to the chief of the judiciary.

The Guardian Council ruled that the above motion was a violation of Article 164 of the Constitution.

Internal Guidelines Preparation Commission Report

The next item on the agenda was the report from the Internal Guidelines Preparation Commission concerning the proposed law to delete Note 2, Article 149 of the Majles Internal Guidelines and append Note 4 to it (returned from the Guardian Council), for which the following amendment was approved by the deputies:

Note 4 is amended as follows:

Note 4 - If the Investigation and Research Council discovers a violation, the instances are referred on a case-by-case basis to the Articles 88 and 90 Commission and this commission has turned 88 and 90 violators over to the judicial courts.

The administrative violations and investigations councils and the appropriate courts are required, as indicated by the case and at the aforementioned commission's request, to give first priority to investigating the violation in accordance with regulations and report the result to the appropriate commission. Research and investigation of that group of organizations, which is under the direct command of the exalted leader, will be done with his excellency's authorization.

Amendments to Note 5:

Note 5 - The officials of the organization being investigated and researched and the executive and judicial organizations and the Islamic revolutionary organizations are required to provide the resources and means needed by the council and to provide the information and documents requested by the council, and in the event of noncooperation, the officials of the organization will be considered violators and criminals, and if the investigation and research council complains, the Articles 88 and 90 Commission will investigate in accordance with legal regulations.

Protocol Bill for Protecting the Environment From Pollution Sources

The fourth item on the agenda was the report from the Agriculture and Rural Development Commission concerning the Protocol Bill for Protecting the Maritime Environment From Pollution Sources on Land (returned from the Guardian Council), for which the following amendments were approved:

Paragraph 1 was amended as follows:

1 - The present protocol will be presented in Kuwait for signing by each member government of the Kuwait Regional Convention for Cooperation to Protect the

Maritime Environment from Pollution, from 21 February 1989 to 21 May 1990, equivalent to 2 Esfand 1368 to 31 Ordibehesht 1369 of the Hejri solar calendar.

This protocol was written and signed in Kuwait in French, Arabic, and English on 21 February 1990, equivalent to 2 Esfand 1368 of the Hejri solar calendar, and all three texts are the same.

It is necessary to mention that the Guardian Council objected to the current Majles legislation because the lack of a Hejri solar calendar date violated Article 17 of the Constitution.

Amended Ezmir Treaty Bill

The next item on the agenda was the report from the Foreign Policy Commission concerning the amended Ezmir Treaty Bill (returned from the Guardian Council), for which the following commission amendment was approved for the Guardian Council's consideration.

Paragraph 15 was amended as follows:

The present protocol was prepared on 28 Khordad 1369 of the Hejri solar calendar, equivalent to 18 June 1990, in a special meeting in Eslamabad between the interior ministers of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] member nations, and the present protocol was signed by their authorized representatives.

It is worthy of mention that the Guardian Council objected to the current Majles legislation because the lack of a Hejri solar calendar date violated Article 17 of the Constitution.

Amendments to Parts of the Law Forming Courts One and Two

The final item on the agenda was the report from the second consultation on the proposed Law Amending and Changing Parts of the Law Forming Courts One and Two, enacted in 1364 [21 Mar 1985-20 March 1986], and the Civil Courts, and parts of this law were approved as follows:

Article 1 - Legal Court One is formed by the chief of the a reserve court.

Article 2 - Article 3 is amended as follows:

The right to issue a verdict belongs to the chief of the reserve court, and the Court Society will consult as necessary. The chief justice of the courts will consult with the chief of the courts in the relevant judicial precinct at his request, and before making a decision the consulting court must carefully study the case and issue the opinion in writing with arguments within no more than two days.

Article 3 - Paragraph 14 is added to Article 7 of the aforementioned law as follows:

14. Disputes and differences pertaining to registry documents mentioned in the Recorded Documents Credibility Preservation and Deterioration Prevention Law and complaints from persons involved will be decided by the Registry Disputes Resolution Council.

Article 4 - Article 9 of the law is amended as follows and Paragraphs 1 and 2 are deleted:

Article 9 - If the case is not within the jurisdiction of Legal Court Two or Legal Court One, Legal Court Two will investigate financial claims up to 10 million rials.

Continued consideration was deferred to the next session.

It is necessary to mention that the very urgent motion to eliminate appeals on the opinions issued by the seven-person councils concerning temporary cultivation, returned to the Majles from the Guardian Council for the second time, was sent to the Interests Discernment Council by the Majles.

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93LA0021A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Mar 93 pp 5, 6, 3

[Excerpts] The Majles met in open session yesterday morning and afternoon chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, and took up the interpellation of the minister of roads and transportation. After talks by supporters and opponents of the interpellation and the minister's answer, a vote was taken, the minister's interpellation did not succeed, and the minister of roads and transportation will continue to serve as minister.

We direct your attention to the detailed proceedings of the Majles.

Bahonar, Deputy From Tehran

Today's second questioner was Engineer Bahonar, deputy from Tehran. The most important things he said were published yesterday, and the rest of his remarks are published below.

Continuing, the deputy from Tehran discussed the railroad's excessive purchases. He said: In past years all railroad manpower could be supplied with modern communications equipment with part of the foreign exchange budget. Yes, this is not a matter of a shortage of foreign exchange, it has to be weak management and the failure to allocate enough foreign exchange internally in the railroad organization. The number of people with bachelor's degrees in technical fields in the railroad is less than 1 percent of total railroad personnel, and the management of this industrial body, even during the last few years, was unable to improve this situation.

He added: Currently in the railroad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, unfortunately I must say that the management has absolutely no understanding, and at no level do they manage anywhere. Does it need a foreign

exchange budget to prevent the delay of trains, which makes people pessimistic about the government, when delays to reach destinations sometimes exceed three to five hours? Does it also need a foreign exchange budget not to have clean train interiors? Studies by the deputy minister for railroad commerce also show that 55 percent of the train delays were attributable to personnel inattentiveness and disorganization. The railroad already pays the wages of its personnel through the sale of $6 million in foreign exchange on the free market, and its efficiency decreases day by day.

Continuing, Eng. Bahonar discussed the lack of planning, the failure to implement the comprehensive freight plan, blocked shipments and the hauling of excess freight. In his interview with KEYHAN, the minister of roads and transportation said that one of the failures of the freight shipment system is hauling excess freight and the problem of hauling one load on top of another, and these failures existed before he became minister. Why did this problem with the comprehensive freight project, despite a budget of 250 million rials from Iran and $22,000 in aid from the United Nations, still exist, not yet at the implementation stage?

He added: A look at the statistics on the Iran International Freight Companies Syndicate on the entry of shipping companies as commercial members of the syndicate in the year 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993] shows that in the first nine months of the current year [21 Mar-21 Dec 1992], of a total of 73,059 transit truck trips within the country, only 665 of them were Iranian and 1,000 of them were Turkish.

Salek, Deputy From Esfahan

Ahmad Salek, deputy from Esfahan, was another questioner. In this regard he said:

A) The signers of the interpellation believe in three basic and essential slogans (following the Imam's line, obeying the leader and supporting Hashemi).

B) The signers of the interpellation took action for God and based on preserving the interest of the nation without any kind of desire or friend or enemy, without showing off and without political lines, but to defend the position of the Majles, the rights of the people, and those who were severely injured during accidents that took place without supervision.

C) The signers to the interpellation are supporters and will-wishers for the respected president of the republic, the ministers and the esteemed brother Sa'idi-Kia, and I thank him for his around-the-clock labors. Interpellation really means a demand for clarity and truth, not judgment.

D) In the management of the nation, if each of us will spend a minute once a day looking at the face of the people, whose continuation is our responsibility, we will understand that they are our most important resource. On this basis, we are all responsible, and we must supervise each other according to the law by enjoining good and prohibiting evil.

He then discussed the fact that most of the nation's main roads are not secure, and the creation of numerous accidents. He said: The insecure state of the roads has caused accidents resulting in many deaths, maimings and injuries, as well as damage to automobiles, freight, buildings, and financial losses, and broad political, social and administrative consequences.

To inform the people of some of the statistics and figures and to analyze some of these kinds of accidents in terms of the undesirable quality of the roads, I will mention the most important factor in intercity accidents. In this area, there are general statistics from the year 1365 [21 Mar 1986-20 Mar 1987] through the first six months of the current year, from which I have chosen the years 1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989] through 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990].

There was a total of about 23,072 accidents in 1365, 30,483 in 1366 [21 Mar 1987-20 Mar 1988], 28,445 in 1367, 29,730 in 1368, 32,340 in 1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991], 29,858 in 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] and about 17,811 in the first six months of 1371 [21 Mar-23 Sep 1992]. The statistic on accidents on intercity roads in the year 1367 from the nation's official sources is about 28,445 with 2,240 deaths and 24,298 injuries. The losses resulting from these accidents totaled more than 98 billion rials.

Last year more than 33,000 roadway engineering defects (such as the lack of signs, lines, road disrepair, turns, roads too narrow for automobiles to pass, narrow bridges and other things) played a part in accidents. In the same regard, I direct your attention to the technical defects in automobiles. Along with this, although the general situation for public transportation is not satisfactory due to the scarcity and high cost of tires, spare parts and other things, 1,951 accidents were the result of automobile defects, and worn tires were most often mentioned. In these statistics it was made clear that it is the duty of an official and a manager to take serious steps to eliminate the technical engineering defects on the roads, while the daily increasing growth of accidents, deaths, injuries, and losses have brought no change or movement in the Ministry of Roads and Transportation.

He then discussed the accident statistics in some of the provinces. He said: Accidents in the province of Esfahan during the first six months of the current year show 102 accidents on the Esfahan-Tehran road, 71 accidents on the Esfahan-Tabriz road, 69 accidents on the Esfahan-Yazd road, 32 accidents on the Esfahan-Aligodarz road, 44 accidents on the Esfahan-Shahr-e Kord road, and the most prominent of these is a dear one we lost at a turn in the road, the late Dr. Gharazi. Can we give society several Dr. Gharazis?

In the province of Zanjan on a 15-km stretch of road from Avej to Shahidabad, a village that gave more than

100 martyrs, every year for the last four years the Ministry of Roads and Transportation has gotten to the point of laying asphalt and then snow and rain destroyed all of it.

Ja'fari, Deputy From Urmia

Beytollah Ja'fari, deputy from Urmia, was the next questioner. During his talk he said: For the second line of the budget liquidation, which is the allocation of credits for current expenses, development and consumption from the aforementioned credits in Tehran and the municipalities, they did not give the names of the organizations which have more important items from investment credits and whose accounts were not submitted at the scheduled time, including the Ministry of Roads and Transportation, the General Office of Railroad Buildings, the Shipping Ports Organization, the Islamic Republic Railroad and other organizations whose names I will not mention.

He added: The Martyr Kalantari Road from Urmia to Naqdeh from the province of West Azarbaijan has problems that have been under study since the time Martyr Kalantari was minister and in my view there has not yet been a comprehensive study of this matter, and this road has always had a budget. This 25-km road brings Urmia close to Naqdeh and it has significant sensitivity. If it were not for this road, the revolutionary forces would not have been able to destroy the counterrevolutionaries in Naqdeh and free the people from the siege of the counterrevolutionary minigroups.

Beytollah Ja'fari criticized the state of the nation's border roads, and he mentioned the failure to install sea warning signs in the seas, the failure to put into operation the Abadan international airport, and the failure to dredge the rivers and lakes as indications of the minister's unsatisfactory performance in the ministry.

Yusefpur, Deputy From Ardel and Farsan

Yusefpur, deputy from Ardel and Farsan, was another questioner. During his talk the discussed the fact that we have more than 120 airport and road construction projects in the country. He said: The average monthly progress of each road project is 1 km. The average expenditure on each kilometer is 190 million rials.

The entire main Varamin-Shahr-e Rey road is 32 km. Its construction began in the year 1359 [21 Mar 1980-20 Mar 1981] and it is to be completed by the year 1374 [21 Mar 1995-20 Mar 1996], although in the year 1370 [21 Mar 1991-20 Mar 1992] the year 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] was specified.

In the year 1353 [21 Mar 1974-20 Mar 1975] the Rudsar edge road was begun, and it was to be completed in the year 1372, and more than 760 million rials was spent on each kilometer.

He discussed the Tehran-Qom railroad, which is 130 km long. He said: Studies for that line began in the year 1354 [21 Mar 1975-20 Mar 1976], and it was estimated that this line will be completed by the end of the year 1375 [20 Mar 1997], meaning that it is taking 21 years, with 120 km of the railroad completed. The Mobarakeh Steel Railroad, which is about 20 km, whose studies began in the year 1361 [21 Mar 1982-20 Mar 1983], was to be completed in the year 1371.

He discussed the port construction, and said: It actually takes 15 to 20 years to build ports, but the construction of the Hormoz fishing ports, which are quite small, began in the year 1361 and it is estimated that it will be completed in 1374.

Continuing, the deputy from Ardel discussed other matters concerning the prolonged projects being implemented by the Ministry of Roads and Transportation, and he noted the repeated changes of managers in this ministry.

Yahyavi, Deputy From Tehran

Another deputy questioning the minister of roads and transportation was Engineer Yahyavi, deputy from Tehran. In explaining the reasons for the interpellation, he said: Concerning the crash of the aircraft rented by the Petrochemical Company in which 35 people were killed, when those who are to explain the accident have not been named after ten months, when no kind of answer has been given to the survivors of the victims, when there is a passenger train accident every day and defenseless people are killed but the real reason for it is not explained to the people, when during the Majles investigation it is established that more than 10 times as many train accidents have occurred as the people were told about, that more than 130 of our compatriots were killed in the crash of the aircraft, and after it was promised that when the black box was read the reason would be explained to the people, but after reading the black box in Moscow it was announced that nothing was recorded, the idea arises for the people that the government is covering up incidents in which the nation's high-ranking officials have been involved and that the incidents are being ignored to create a superficial cover for government leaders and to protect them from any retribution. This lack of public confidence in the government is coming to the attention of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He said the decision by the Majles deputies to interpellate the minister of roads and transportation was made to defend the president of the republic. He said: This interpellation gives the people confidence that the deputies are acting to protect their rights.

He added: We think the most essential reasons for the aforementioned actions are weak management in the Ministry of Roads and Transportation. Mr. Sa'idi-Kia says that aircraft guidance in Iran's airports is done with the most primitive methods due to the lack of suitable radar networks and that a budget of $700 [as published] to $1 million will be needed to complete the nation's aircraft radar, and he warns that such accidents may be

repeated at other airports, but General Sattari, commander of the Air Force, says the Air Force's radar networks are among the most advanced in the world and are also used by other countries. The question arises, why isn't this advanced radar being used by the nation's airline industry?

Eng. Yahyavi noted: The respected minister of roads and transportation says that for almost four months the experts from our Ministry of Roads and Transportation have been holding joint meetings with the Air Force, but they have produced no results, and that if it is decided at any time to make use of this radar network, it will be possible to do so within 24 hours. Here I ask the minister of roads and transportation, knowing that these flights are being made under such unsafe conditions, why did you not make use of the Air Force's existing resources? In order to prevent such tragedies, after the failure of the negotiations to use these facilities, why didn't you go to the exalted leader and the respected president of the republic?

He added: The failure to make use of the nation's existing radar network must be studied, and those who caused the failure of the joint meetings between the Ministry of Roads and Transportation and the Air Force must be identified and taken to court by the judicial power as the ones responsible for the killing of innocent people in these accidents.

Engineer Yahyavi noted: When it is announced that of 44,400 road accidents only 6 percent were due to technical problems with vehicles and that the other 94 percent were caused by technical problems in the roads, the lack of the necessary signs and lane markers along the roads and road disrepair, what else can be concluded except that the cause is weak management?

He noted: It is not acceptable to avoid creating disruption in the Second Five-Year Plan, because if a minister is weak, nothing would be better than that his part of the Second Five-Year Plan not be written in accordance with his weakness, and that he give up his place to a more powerful minister who will also be very likely to carry it out.

Answer From the Minister of Roads and Transportation

After a number of deputies spent two hours giving their opinions concerning the interpellation, Eng. Sa'idi-Kia gave an answering speech. In his speech, he first discussed the recent passenger aircraft crash. He said: [passages omitted on the circumstances of the crash]

Eng. Sa'idi-Kia then discussed the Islamic Republic Aircraft Administration and the National Aircraft Organization. He said: Since the time I came into the ministry, the aircraft industry has had two managers, and according to reason and the Constitution, one manager cannot manage two places, and it is truly difficult for someone to do this. Because of the volume of the work, I asked Engineer Shefati to be executive director of the Islamic Republic Aircraft Administration. He agreed and went to the National Aircraft Administration. For three years it was Engineer Reza'ifar, and his term ended. For the new term, the new management needs to move things forward, and now another person is needed to take the larger steps that must be taken. I talked to the brothers and I asked our brother Mr. Habibi and he went to work. After six months he concluded that due to the differences between these two organizations (the National and the Islamic Republic) they must have one manager and he insisted that he could not work under these conditions.

Continuing his remarks, Eng. Sa'idi-Kia answered the question about whether the aircraft companies do not consider themselves useful. He said: You help me. The charters for some of the companies are now here. We are in favor of forming this company, but on the condition that it submits to existing regulations. If someone does not want to submit, should we ask for our own projects? Is this right? In the companies where we fly, such as Homa and Asman, we make this task practical (observing technical issues), but the new companies being formed do not submit to these regulations.

He added: Mr Engineer Bahonar, please come to the ministry and see what has happened to us. Due to the fact that their authorization was late, aircraft waited more than three or four months at the place of purchase and they did not allow them to come. We applied the greatest pressure to get the regulations observed, but it is not as if one can close one's eyes in the country and say it is this and nothing other than this. If we want to prevent flights by SAHA, then I ask you, why do you dear Majles deputies repeatedly come up as intermediaries asking that SAHA be allowed to fly?

According to the minister of roads and transportation, despite all the existing deficiencies, and despite the inoperative state of a number of existing aircraft, passenger transport has doubled since the year 1357 [21 March 1978 - 20 March 1979].

Sa'idi-Kia discussed the purchase of six F-100 aircraft, which have a 108-passenger capacity. He said: About 1,500 seats have been taken out of circulation. With these same services and the administration of the Tupulof aircraft, this year six million people have been transported. Concerning the replacement of aircraft motors, he said: Sometimes these aircraft motors come back because pigeons have gotten into them and they have been damaged. We did one operation in 20 days and transported 120,000 pilgrims. Very well, this is one very good thing that is being done in the country.

Sa'idi-Kia discussed the lack of radar systems in the country. He said: Our system is wireless. As for what they are saying telling us to use radar systems, it really isn't this way. About four months ago the Air Force wrote a letter to the president of the republic. That letter said, we have resources, try to use them. The president of the republic wrote, Mr. Sa'idi-Kia, it seems that the Air Force has a lot of resources and wants to cooperate. You

must negotiate and report so a decision can then be made. This letter is dated 8/23 [22 Nov]. I personally went to Gen. Sattari's office and asked what resources he had, and I also saw the existing radar. I said I am not a specialist on this, but fortunately our Mr. Nabi-Najarian came, and he is a specialist in these matters. I told him to attend the meetings and see what could be done. After the National Aircraft Organization discussed the matter they said this was anti-aircraft radar. They said, yes, we bought other systems, and if you install them you can use them. I made arrangements with Mr. Sattari to use them, and we are also paying for them.

He continued: At the Yazd, Kish and Sabzevar area airport, they only use Air Force equipment. At the Bandar 'Abbas, Bushehr, Shiraz, Mashhad, Esfahan, Zahedan and Rafsanjan airports, we either use our own resources or get help from the Air Force.

The Air Force radar at Mehrabad Airport is also anti-aircraft. Many letters have been written since the year 1362 [21 Mar 1983-20 Mar 1984] and the National Aircraft Organization insisted that these systems be used, but due to existing problems, this has not been easy to do. He noted: We use every existing resource in the country to alleviate aircraft problems. He said: We proposed a note that in our national air space we provide service to others and asking for authorization that some of that foreign exchange be spent on this. The Majles approved, and I say that within a few years, God willing, Note 41 will solve all the problems in the aircraft industry. [passage omitted on commentaries on two train accidents]

The minister of roads and transportation cited manpower as one of the reasons for accidents, and continuing he cited rail lines as another factor in accidents. In this regard, he said: Actually line reconstruction is another task that has been done by the railroad. About 1,420 km have been improved by the railroads and about 175 km have been fundamentally rebuilt on two rail lines. In Khorasan 260 km of lines have been improved and 530 have been rebuilt, in Azarbaijan also 450 km have been rebuilt and also in Esfahan and Yazd about 250 km have been rebuilt. In this area the railroads have taken a large step towards basic improvement, and that is the completion of the high-speed Tehran-Zanjan line and the Tehran-Mianeh line.

Eng. Sa'idi-Kia then added: They said that in the year 45 [as published] there were more railroad accidents, but they did not announce that the accidents were of several types. One type is the train turning over when the rails come apart. One type is a collision, and there are more than 25 of these per year. This year, however, we had three important railroad accidents, one freight train and two passenger trains. We had small driving accidents on the railroads, and this is a natural thing.

He mentioned the repair of electromotor railroad engine parts by the Self-Sufficiency Committee, and he considered the growth of this committee to be a good thing. [passages omitted on international train accidents]

Concerning freight, he said: A project cannot be designed without information and statistics. To design a project, there must be complete statistics. Unfortunately, there are no working statistics on shipping in our country. We have designed many machinery projects, because we have the statistics and information. We also have a program with previous statistics on national shipping. The gentlemen were asking if we are responsible for the doubled shipping in the country. No. We object to the doubling of shipping in the country. In various meetings with the economic council I have asked why things are being done in the country in such a way that twice as much shipping is being done. There are several reasons for doubled shipping in the country.

1. The distribution of goods in the country is not being done properly. When distribution is not being done properly in the country, naturally the greatest burden will fall on shipping, and we say that this doubled shipping should not be.

2. The lack of a suitable warehouse network in the country. We say that with doubled shipping the roads will be crowded, the traffic will increase and it will damage the roads. We say that this should not be.

The minister of roads and transportation added: To rebuild the roads, we must take good care of them. We have cyclical and continuous road maintenance, and after the revolution this road maintenance became weak. In the last few years we have made great efforts to reverse this trend. In previous years we did not have any budget row at all for road maintenance. Now we have a row for road maintenance in the budget. One of the responsibilities of road maintenance is the installation of safety signs. Some time ago we converted these signs to galvanized sheet metal. For this reason last year we also started the Road Safety Mobilization Project. In the last one and a half years a major change has been made in the nation's signs.

Continuing, the minister of roads and transportation said that shortages were also a factor in driving and road accidents. He said: During the last 12 to 13 years, lighting was installed in several tunnels, which did not have lighting. For the first time, in the last two or three years we have trained a road maintenance expert at our training center and likewise he has been given on-the-job training. Concerning the number of accidents, he said: Since the year 1367 about 2,400 people in the country have lost their lives in accidents. If look at this number per 10,000 vehicles, what happens? In England, five people are killed for every 10,000 vehicles. In France it is eight, in Germany it is 10, in Spain it is 11, in Portugal it is 29, and it is 34 in Yugoslavia. Where do we want to be on this table? For every 10,000 vehicles we have 10 deaths. Therefore, according to these statistics, it is not correct to say the standards on our roads are low.

He added: In the last two years, with help from the Majles, we have established a budget on the budget rows to eliminate accident-prone locations. I see that a series

of measures have been taken for safety-promoting work, to eliminate accident-prone locations and to establish road maintenance.

Continuing, Eng. Sa'idi-Kia discussed the failure to make the best use of the roads and transportation budgets and centralize them in vital districts. He noted: Every year we have spent more than 96 percent of our budget. The amount that remains always remains. The ministry's position has been that the railroad should be repaired quickly. That is, we have increased the railroad budget share, which was 15 percent in past years, so that with the help of the Majles, 24 percent of the total ministry budget for the year 1372 has been diverted to the railroads.

He added: We are currently building about 15,000 km of roads, national roads, main roads and secondary roads. We are also building 10 airports, in addition to Emam Khomeyni International Airport. In 1353 design work began for Emam Khomeyni International Airport. Implementation began in 1359, but nothing was done. It remained dormant after the revolution, but in the year 1365 this project came to the ministry and we saw that it was a good design. In the 1365 Budget Law there is no budget for the Emam Khomeyni Airport. We got about 40 million tomans from Engineer Musavi out of Note 6 so that this project would not die. After that the ministry was always thinking about this project. Fortunately, construction on the Imam's airport is progressing. One runway has been built, we have laid its first layer of asphalt and begun the second. We have begun the parking area and have begun the connective bridges for the two runways. Of course we have thought about issues such as water, electricity, land use, and green space and they are being prepared for construction one by one.

Continuing his remarks, the minister of roads and transportation discussed road maintenance and mentioned the Bill To Procure the Cost of Road Maintenance Services. He said: When this bill comes to the Majles, we will get your help approving it.

In the railroads, we have the Bafq-Bandar-e 'Abbas project as a very large project. He said: More than 2 million cubic meters of concrete and more than 92 million cubic meters of earth-laying and very complex technical tasks are among the jobs to be done in this project. There are more than 50 active contracts. We have borrowed 1.5 billion tomans out of 210 from Mr. Hashemi.

Concerning the Mashhad-Sarakhs Railroad, he also said: This railroad will connect us to the Central Asian nations. Well, last year the Majles helped us with this and provided 200 million tomans in credits for it, and in addition to that we also borrowed 1.3 billion tomans from the president of the republic. He listed projects being implemented by the Ministry of Roads and Transportation, including the Ardekan, Chadoromlu, Sarakhs, Mashhad, Bafq, Bandar-e 'Abbas, Ahvaz, and Bandar-e Emam railroads.

He added: The Tehran-Qom railroad is 170 km, not 120 km, of which we have built 40 km. Of course we have designed new roads, which are 130 km, and their implementation will begin next year.

God willing, the Martyr Kalantari freeway will be one of the proud accomplishments of the Islamic government. Its massive ocean task has begun, the rock bed for 15 km of this section has been completed, and more than 12 square meters of rock has been laid. A project this large has not been implemented. Foreigners came and proposed (three years ago) that they do it, which we opposed. Sa'idi-Kia said we have only 251 national road construction projects. He said: In any case, one of the main reasons the projects are prolonged is credits. More work is done every year on this very Shahr-e Kord project than its credits allow. According to the minister of roads and transportation, projects being carried out by the ministry include the Azadi tunnel in Ilam, the Harun tunnel in Shahr-e Kord, the Shahrzad tunnel in Kerman and the construction of other tunnels.

At the end of the first part of his talk, he mentioned the reconstruction of other tunnels in the country.

Safian, Deputy From Tehran

After the two-hour defense by the minister of roads and transportation, Engineer Safian, deputy from Tehran, gave a speech defending the minister of roads and transportation. He said: Since the day of the passenger aircraft accident, this matter has been pursued in the Housing and Urban Construction and Roads and Transportation Commission and the minister of roads and transportation attended the very first session, which was one day after the studies by the Majles, and gave explanations. After 10 days, the conclusion was to be given to the commission and the commission was to meet again.

He then said: This is truly regrettable, since when our brother Eng. Bahonar came to the commission, he easily passed over this and said that this is not appropriate for the Majles. As a matter of fact, it is appropriate for the Majles, but we should have set this date and time, which we chose for the interpellation to take place after the commission's work was complete and the special commission's work was complete.

This reason given as the cause of the passenger aircraft crash, in view of what was said by Eng. Bahonar, is no reason. When this incident took place a favorable atmosphere had developed inside and outside the Majles. As you know, 11 relatives of the respected speaker of the Majles, Mr. Nateq-Nuri, unfortunately lost their lives in this accident, and of course there were others. As it happens, this issue is connected to the interpellation (commotion among the deputies).

Mr. Nateq-Nuri (speaker of the Majles): In fairness, it has no connection. How can you say it is related?

Mr. Safian: Yes, there was no connection! Then assume there is no connection. It is the responsibility of the

Majles to investigate this accident. How can an aircraft accident become important and then they say it is not appropriate for us?

Mr. Nateq-Nuri: He (Eng. Bahonar) said that a judicial investigation is not appropriate for the Majles. Don't digress.

He then said: Why do you bring a report that you have not studied into the Majles assembly? Why do you incite the people? This is not right. The other issues are also like this.

Concerning the road accidents, Safian said: It is unfair for us to say that 94 percent of accidents are caused by the roads.

He added: When we interpellate him, we say that he should not be here. Notwithstanding the fairness that our brothers exercise or the votes of confidence that they give or do not give, let us assume that the signers are thinking he should be fired. How is that going to happen? Do you think they will assign a minister for you tomorrow? Know clearly that a ministry that has a supervisor will be much worse. As for the statement that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani agrees with the interpellation even though it is nothing, no, it is not this way.

Nowbakht, Deputy From Rasht

Nowbakht, deputy from Rasht, was another defender of the minister of roads and transportation. During his speech he said: A military plane was told that a passenger aircraft was there and it was asked what its altitude was, and was also told its authorized speed. There were five military aircraft and one passenger aircraft. Each one had two black boxes, and it seems that only one black box was damaged. Can't we understand the situation with the rest of them? Definitely we can understand it. Representatives of the government and a Majles deputy are now in Russia to see which statement is correct. Wouldn't it be better to delay this interpellation for a week to 10 days? With the emphasis that has been given to this task by the exalted leader and the president of the republic, can one express an opinion now? One cannot express an opinion.

Continuing, the deputy from Rasht noted: With regard to the trains, planning is needed to keep them from colliding. An investigation must be made concerning this accident. Can it really be attributed to bad management? If it is this way, it can be generalized.

He said: It is too early to evaluate and judge now. There is not yet enough information available. The measure is premature. It must be given more time and other people such as military people must also speak.

Kuhkan, Deputy From Lanjan

Kuhkan, deputy from Lanjan, was one of the questioners. During his speech he discussed the air accident. He said: The investigation of this accident has three areas of focus. Have investigations to prevent these kinds of accidents been made in the National Aircraft Organization or not?

The minister mentioned simultaneous authorizations to take off and land. Give an answer Mr. Sa'idi-Kia. What are the regulations according to world standards for taking off and landing on two different runways? It requires a minimum distance of 750 meters. Are our two runways 750 meters apart? They authorize take-offs and landings when each aircraft on each runway has the possibility to deviate by 15 degrees. Is this possible at Mehrabad airport?

He addressed the minister of roads. He said: You said that the military aircraft collided with the passenger aircraft, and this is a prejudgement. As of this moment, the special commission has not issued such an opinion. The Air Force has been writing letters for several years, yet the minister said that Gen. Sattari wrote to the president of the republic, and he ordered the gentlemen to follow up on this matter.

Regarding the replacement of managers, he said: The minister implicitly agreed that these replacements should take place. If repeated explanations are part of a minister's authority, then where is the place and the stability of management?

The minister did not answer and in answer to the question of whether the number of train accidents in 1371 was also two, there is a letter here from a number of railroad engineers to the president of the republic and the minister of roads and transportation.

Is it of any value merely for us to say that we have spent 95 percent of the budget? What is the quality of the expenditures we made?

Nateq-Nuri, Deputy From Nur

Another defender of the interpellation was Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, deputy from Nur. In his speech he said:

Isn't it true that the Majles is at the head of affairs? Where are these affairs, unless that means that the Majles is the greatest power, according to the late Imam?

Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri continued: If we do not question and follow-up, then where should these kinds of actions be investigated? Then who will answer for this blood that has been spilled?

Continuing, he discussed the absence of the necessary cooperation between the ministers and the deputies and the bad approach taken by some ministers to the deputies. He said: If a deputy wants to contact a minister, he has to chase after the minister for days.

Continuing, he discussed the points of the interpellation of the minister of roads and transportation, and added: The discussion is not about an airplane crash. The

discussion is about lack of management and the incompetence of an executive official. A good minister is a minister who presents strong management.

Continuing, he said: Such things happen all over the world, but the reactions must be seen. One must see how the official involved is dealt with. For example, a train had an accident in Japan. The manager in charge killed himself, but here it is as if there is no accountability or record. Everyone does whatever he wants, and as soon as they come and say something, he says sir, you are weakening the government.

At the end of his talk, Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri discussed the recent collision of a passenger aircraft with a military fighter. He said: They have not yet said who will answer for the blood of a young husband. Shouldn't an answer be given to these people? Gentlemen, deputies chosen by the people, is it right that we indifferently pass over the blood of these dear ones? Then tell me, if the minister in charge is not responsible, who is responsible?

Minister of Roads and Transportation's New Answer

The minister of roads and transportation said that the distance between the two runways, mentioned by one of the questioners, is a mistake. The said: Let the Accidents Commission do its work.

He then said that this year there were three major railroad accidents, and he asked Mr. Kuhkan: You go and compare the work that the Ministry of Roads and Transportation does for the country with what the other executive ministries do. We strongly resisted price increases. We have to observe a balance so that work can be done.

Concerning the railroads, Sa'idi-Kia said: We changed the systems for some of the trains in such a way that it decreased the number of personnel. We formerly sent the trains out with 25 employees, but we now send nine people. This is aimed at the same lawfulness that you are talking about.

If our locomotives are out of service, then why are 1.5 million tons added to the freight load every year?

He then said: Sixty-five percent of the railroad managers have bachelor's degrees or higher.

Reza 'Abdollahi, Deputy From Mahneshan

The respected deputies must analyze the reasons for high prices and search for a solution.

The first speaker was Mr. Reza 'Abdollahi, deputy from Mahneshan. He began by offering condolences on the death of the source of emulation Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Amoli and added: Without a doubt, achieving social development and social progress that is worthy of the Islamic Republic of Iran needs an understanding of national interests. After this understanding, the determination and will of everyone is an inevitable necessity to reach the national goal behind the exalted leader.

He then added: We all must have strong belief and ideology, and we must work hand-in-hand with purity and ethics for the happiness of the nation, and divine victory will be achieved, just as we clearly observed this secret and meaning during the war and at the fronts. In this atmosphere, all the "I"s have been put aside and everywhere it is "we" that prevails. We hope that through the grace of the blessed month of Ramazan, which is the month of the building of self, the nation and the officials will achieve this success.

The deputy from Mahneshan discussed inflation and high prices in society. He said: Under current circumstances there is heavy pressure imposed on the people, and in these conditions, the respected deputies must analyze the reasons for high prices and search for a solution. Of course some of this pressure is due to the drop in oil revenues compared to the years prior to the triumph of the Islamic revolution and its early years and to the drop in the dollar's buying power, as well as the increased population, the need to repair the destruction caused by the war, infrastructure investment and the nation's youthful management, but the other part, caused by high prices and inflation, which has roots in performance, must be carefully analyzed.

Reza 'Abdollahi also noted: Under circumstances when finding sufficient and skilled manpower and putting them to work is one of the nation's most essential tasks, giving more than $4 billion in foreign exchange with 1,000 billion [as published] to the Mobarakeh Steel Complex will not solve problems. Under these circumstances, trying to launch a $1.5 billion satellite, making illegal and unaccounted purchases and expenditures will not lead to development and low prices, and at a time when 20 million telephones are being added to the statistics of the telephones of the world, or in other words about four telephones are added for every 1,000 persons, if someone comes without regard to the plan and criteria and without taking the public's purchasing power into account along with the relationship between the number of telephones and the gross national product, and this number increases by 300 percent, idling the public's capital, one must not expect low prices.

He added: The respected Majles must take a careful look at the cost of production and the quality of the goods and services provided by the ministers, the officials and the managers of the executive organizations and government companies, and it must study the costs of production and the quality of goods and services.

Concerning the high cost of assigning telephones, he said: Is assigning telephones the only criterion? What about price, quality and strengthening domestic production? What about reasonable prices? What about low costs? What is the nature of quality?

Elsewhere in his talk Mr. 'Abdollahi praised the president of the republic and expressed the hope that with Majles support of reforming the structure of consumption patterns, transfer of production and service tasks to

the public, the removal of government monopolies which contradict the public interest, reform of the tax collection system, reducing prices and proper support of domestic production, the heavy volume of losses to the nation will be reduced.

At the end of his talk he discussed bread waste and the improved consumption of it by the people, and asked that this matter be investigated. [passages omitted on general problems of the country]

Ansari, Deputy From Mashhad

The experience of Japan and Korea is that the best and most profitable investment is directed to the labor force.

The second pre-agenda speaker was Ansari, deputy from Mashhad. [passage omitted]

In conclusion Ansari mentioned to officials the proposed selection of Mashhad as the national city because of the presence of the celestial grave of the eighth Imam (peace be upon him), the relentless campaign against narcotics, the establishment of the two-line Mashhad-Tehran railroad, the study and allocation of the necessary budget to solve the problem of drinking water in Mashhad, the allocation in Paragraph J [C], Note 3 of the Budget Law to build cultural and art centers and the like and tourist centers in Mashhad, the increased number of trains and flights to Mashhad, guaranteed sugar-beet purchases, the procurement of the necessary fuel, wheat and flour in the province of Khorasan because of the situation of the people in Afghanistan and the export of goods across the border, rapid measures to store wheat, the construction of a hall to house pilgrims at Mashhad airport, and the construction of a new runway.

Abol-Fazl Rabi'i, Deputy From Garmsar

The best factor in the creation of proper management is prior and actual belief in the government that rules society.

The final pre-agenda speaker was Abol-Fazl Rabi'i, deputy from Garmsar. During a discussion of the method of management in the offices and executive organizations, he said: Although it is possible that the issues raised are repetitive and obvious, colleagues know that sometimes in the selection of individuals and officials for various reasons, basic, determinative, and constructive principles are not observed, and naturally incompetence, insufficient work and wasting the public's time in some offices are the minimum results of this heedlessness.

1 - On the one hand what has been said is not without weakness, and with the help of experienced and knowledgeable people the existing shortages and weaknesses can be converted to assets.

Definitely management, without the factors and principles it requires, will not achieve its true and acceptable meaning. Despite this, in the selection and appointment of an individual as a manager, above all the following points must be observed.

A [as published]: It is natural that prior and actual belief in the government that rules society is the best, greatest, and most important factor for implementing proper management, and it is the most fundamental motivation for bringing about a self-reliant, extensive, and tireless movement in the place of service.

Continuing his remarks, the deputy from Garmsar listed the qualities and characteristics of a manager in executive and government organizations, including understanding the abilities and executive capabilities of individuals, the breadth of the social and educational vision of individuals, understanding the academic achievements and experience of a manager in general subjects, and adherence to ethical principles and open mindedness.

Continuing his views, Abol-Fazl Rabi'i mentioned independence as one of a manager's most important qualities and he noted: Initiative and leadership in the work, concern and respect for clients, respecting the character of individuals being supervised, preventing the waste of public funds, being free from pride, arrogance and self-importance in the work place, minimizing administrative formalities and devices that are not fitting for those operating an Islamic government, and numerous other matters that are pertinent to this and are beyond the scope of this article, are among the things for which, if sufficient attention is given, we will not need to spend huge amounts of money to teach and train managers on the job, and in this way there will be no commitment to continue service.

Continuing his remarks, Rabi'i discussed the problems in his electoral district. He noted that most of the people of Garmsar keep livestock and farm, and said: The people in this area, at all points throughout the imposed war and during unexpected disasters such as floods and earthquakes, have hastened with all their ability to help the sacred government of the Islamic Republic and they have not failed to take any measures pleasing to God.

He emphasized the abundant existing talents in the Municipality of Garmsar, especially in the areas of industry and agriculture and the existence of the Tehran-north and Tehran-Mashhad railroads, and he asked the ministries of power and agriculture to invest and pay more attention to collecting seasonal runoff water in the municipality, which is more than 50 million cubic meters.

In conclusion, the deputy from Garmsar called upon the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade, the Ministry of Petroleum, the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, the Ministry of Industries, the chief of the Voice and Visage Organization and the Gas Company to exercise great diligence in affairs pertaining to this region.

Majles Notes

Out of 242 deputies in attendance at the Majles, 121 gave the minister of roads and transportation a vote of confidence and 121 other deputies gave him a vote of no-confidence. Since a vote of no-confidence requires a simple majority, therefore the vote of no-confidence for the minister of roads and transportation failed and the minister of roads and transportation remained in the ministry, or in the words of the speaker of the Majles, his ministry was retained.

* 3 Mar

93LA0020A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Mar 93 p 5

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri, and the deputies from Zabol, Bandar-e Enzeli, and Tukan gave speeches.

Likewise the letter to the Expediency Discernment Council from 140 deputies concerning the return of the motion to eliminate appeals on the opinions issued by the seven-person councils concerning temporary cultivation was read to the president of the republic. We direct the attention of our esteemed readers to the full proceedings of the Majles.

Seyyed Hasan Hoseyni-Tabataba'i, Deputy From Zabol

It is incumbent upon the officials to cooperate with the deputies of the people and to pay the necessary attention to their lawful and rightful demands.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles was Seyyed Hasan Aqa Hoseyni-Tabataba'i, deputy from Zabol. During his speech he discussed the basic and fundamental role of the Majles, with mention of the point that the Majles is the full crystallization of the nation of the Islamic revolution of Iran. He said: It is the desire and the ideal of the deputies and the desire of the nation. It is therefore incumbent upon officials to cooperate with the deputies of the people and to pay the necessary attention to their lawful and rightful demands.

He then discussed the strategic nature of the province of Sistan va Baluchestan. He said: Sistan is a border region and it has a proud national and religious history. Unfortunately, during time of the oppressive shah's regime, because of the valiant spirit of the people, it was subjected to usurpation on the part of the idolater elements, and knowledge and science fled the area. The beginnings of the destruction and backwardness in this area, which has been stored up for a long time, began there and ended here, where it is now considered one of the most deprived areas.

The deputy from Zabol noted that the Majles has given attention to this area and he said: In the last session the Majles approved the Sistan Development Law, and this God-pleasing measure by the Majles brought hope to the deprived and oppressed people of that area, but unfortunately, despite comprehensive government support, the Sistan Development Organization has not yet been able to take appropriate measures, despite comprehensive government support, because of the weakness of the general manager and the board of directors. Rather, all of their effort has been spent on building fancy buildings and institutions and allocating high salaries to staff workers in Tehran and the province.

He added: In my view, it is necessary for the organization's general council to act on its legal and religious duty and to study and evaluate the unsuccessful activities of the organization's officials in that area by holding the necessary meeting.

He criticized the transfer of several jobs to one person in the country, and with regard to the exalted leader's comments on floods at the last Friday prayer service sermon, he said: Now, in light of the irreparable damage the floods have caused several times since the triumph of the revolution, what infrastructure work has been done by the appropriate officials? Although the government allocated and sent a budget of several billion tomans to alleviate deprivation among the deprived people, those measures have not solved any problems because the Water Organization has turned projects over to companies, disregarding regulations and without studying and observing the employer and contractor laws.

The speaker asked, what measures has the Ministry of Energy taken so far or what practical answers has it given to eliminate the problems of the Zabol Surface Water Collection Project? He said: The implementation of the project to build a temporary dam (kafrum) next to the old dam, at a cost of 210 million tomans and with defects that were previously discussed, was also turned over to that company, and this project was also regrettably unsuccessful.

He then added: The city of Zabol drinking water project was also given to the aforementioned company, and quickly. The deadline passed some time ago. It is questionable that this company, with the violations that have been enumerated and with the collusion of insiders, has violated the Contractor Law on two or three important projects and it was turned over incompletely.

Respected deputies, the damage caused to oppressed Sistan is not limited to one or two things. Another disaster is the 2-billion-toman canal project, which transfers Sistan's surplus water to the Hamud sea. Thousands of hectares of land located along this canal's route were purchased from landowners. Noting that the people of Sistan are afraid of floods now, he said: The officials and the Flood Staff have not yet taken any steps to designate the aforementioned flood walls.

'Abdol-Ghaffar Shuja', Deputy From Bandar Enzeli

Fortunately, Iran's geographic position is such that we can make use of our potential agricultural and producing resources to achieve self-sufficiency.

The next speaker was 'Abdol-Ghaffar Shuja', deputy from Bandar Enzeli. In his talk he said the advent of the Islamic revolution reconstructed the people. He said: Today, however, we are thankful that with unity of our people we were able, while stabilizing our revolution in the world, to overcome our political and economic problems to a desirable and acceptable extent.

He added: The nation's officials, including the legislative and executive power of our Islamic nation of Iran, with its special international place and activities, have a heavy responsibility to preserve the values of the revolution and guide the deprived and martyr-nurturing people of Iran and the oppressed people of the world, and it is necessary to make use of the 14 years' experience with the revolution in the the Second Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan with the utmost care and planning, taking into account all the nation's potential resources.

He added: Fortunately, Iran's geographic position is such that we can make use of our potential agricultural and production resources to achieve self-sufficiency, and this will also bring foreign exchange through exports. By activating the nation's producing centers, the import of foreign goods and the loss of foreign exchange can be prevented, and in this way we can move more quickly than before towards rebuilding Iran's war-stricken and deprived areas and carry on with our economic, cultural, and social development.

In this situation we can even achieve our rightful place nationally, publicly, agriculturally, in the medical industries and elsewhere as an Islamic nation in war. The speaker also noted: in the Second Five-Year Plan, with the very favorable and constructive environment between the legislative and executive powers, some of this solidarity is seen in the text of the 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] Budget and the unification of the foreign exchange rate.

Greater care and attention to the direction being taken by the nation's administrative structure, which is the result of inattention over the last 14 years and the severe economic pressure on the vulnerable classes of the revolution and the general anxiety over the tiresome bureaucracy, which has come to prevail in the offices. Most of it is due to incapability and the management in the supervisory organizations, which entails monitoring and inspection in the government offices to the private sector, and the failure to encourage competent managers over errant and weak managers.

The speaker then discussed the problems and difficulties in his electoral district. He said: The city of Bandar Enzeli, was once the gateway to Asia and considered one of the nation's most beautiful cities because of its geographical position. The nation's first mayor's office was established there in the solar lunar year 1300 [as published]. Unfortunately the disgraceful name of the Pahlavi government replaced the name Enzeli.

The people of this city, with a 90-percent literacy rate and abundant educational talent, have no university other than one nursing college with a capacity of 30 students that was opened recently, yet after our Islamic revolution we saw government and free universities opened all over the country in cities with literacy rates of less than 50 percent.

As examples of Bandar-e Enzeli's problems, he mentioned the undesirable economic situation, the lack of farm land, and the lack of an industrial complex and a free commercial port. He discussed the pollution of the Caspian Sea due to unrestrained use of its aquatic life. He said: The rise of marsh waters in recent years has severely limited and in some places made it impossible to use coasts and tourist facilities. Agricultural lands on the edges of marshes and a great part of the city's housing units have also become inaccessible to the people.

The deputy from Enzeli issued memos to the nation's officials concerning the construction of the free commercial port, a rapid opening of the industrial city, the establishment of government and free universities, maritime navigation, the practice of medicine, preventing urban destruction caused by rising sea water, reconstruction of streets and alleys, housing procurement, providing Enzeli with natural gas service, and making the Rasht-Enzeli road four lanes.

Taha, Deputy From Bukan

We must all join hands to tell the exalted truth. [Passage omitted on IRI's role in helping the suffering of Muslims in the world]

Continuing his remarks, the deputy from Bukan discussed the fact that the land of Iran has various kinds of mines and rich and valuable deposits. He said: The mountains of Bukan are world famous for their bauxite and aluminum mines.

He praised the workers of the Ministry of Mines and Metals for their efforts in studying the mines in the municipality of Bukan. He spoke in detail about the important characteristics and benefits of these mines in the municipality of Bukan and called for attention to this matter on the part of officials in the ministries and appropriate organizations.

Ahmad Taha listed the most important problems in his electoral district, including the construction of a dam across the river Simineh in Bukan, the construction of a 1,000-megawatt power station, the establishment of rationing in the student areas, the procurement of a teaching cadre for elementary schools, the construction of class-room space, the establishment of a Bukan roads office and the completion of its cadre, equipment and machinery, asphalting the road from Bukan to Sardasht, asphalting the roads from Bukan to neighboring cities, the construction of a meteorological center, the conversion of Legal Court Two to a court of justice, and the completion of the judicial and administrative cadre, the procurement of ambulances, machinery and equipment

for the hospital, the construction of a grain purchase office, and the installation and startup of an asphalt factory for the municipality of Bukan, and he called upon the appropriate officials to help solve these problems.

Legislation

Proposed Law To Amend Articles From the Legal Courts One and Two Law

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the report from the second consultation of the Judicial and Legal Affairs Commission on the Proposed Law To Amend Articles From the Legal Courts One and Two Formation Law and to delete articles from the Legal Courts One and Two Formation Law enacted in 1364 [21 Mar 1985-20 Mar 1986] and the Special Civil Courts Law, and Articles 5 through 9 of this law were approved by the deputies.

Article 5 - The note to Article 13 is amended as follows:

Note - After the dissolution of a ruling, the case is returned to the same issuing court and the court is required to investigate the original claim.

Article 6- Article 14 is amended as follows:

After investigation of the case and observance of the consultant's view (if requested by the consultant), the chief of the reserve court chief will issue a ruling directly.

It is necessary to note that Article 14 of the law says: I is qualified in Legal Court One, after investigating the claim and studying the case and the opinion of his consultant, the chief justice will announce his opinion to the two sides and if there is no objection from either side within five days, the opinion becomes a verdict. If there is objection from the two sides, his opinion is sent to the National Supreme Court. If the cour validates the branch's opinion, it is sent back to the court so that the chief justice can issue a verdict.

Article 7 - Article 15 is deleted.

It is necessary to mention that Article 15 of the Legal Courts One and Two Formation Law says: Whenever the National Supreme Court has a judicial objection to the opinion of the legal court, the documented opinion, alogn with the file is sent to the investigating court for the issuance of the appropriate verdict, so that in view of the aforementioned argument, as determined appropriately, a verdict can be issued.

Article 8 - Article 1 of the Special Civil Courts Law, enacted on 7/7/1358 [29 September 1979] by the Revolutionary Council, is amended as follows:

Article 1 - The special civil court is to be formed by the chief of the reserve court. If the case requires a consultant, at his request the chief of the courts or the chief justice of the appropriate judicial precinct will be designated as consultant, and before making a decision the consulting court must carefully study the case and issue the opinion in writing with arguments within no more than five days.

Article 9 - Paragraph 4, Article 3 is amended as follows:

Paragraph 4 - With the mutual consent of the two parties, other claims will be investigated for fair equivalence after the divorce.

Amendment to Article 7 of the Iran Communications Company Formation Law

The second item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission concerning the Bill To Amend Article 7 of the Iran Communications Company Formation Law.

Speaking in opposition to this bill, Morteza Nabavi said: In its study of the 1372 Budget Bill, the respected Majles was entirely sensitive about the formation of companies by government companies and in general this matter was prohibited for 1372. Following a report we had concerning the liquidation of the budget which we presented to the Accounting Court, again the respected Majles decided, in view of the fact that the accounts and books of the companies were not very clear, that the companies should be operated in the form of the 1-12 companies budget and that by the end of the month of Khordad 1372 [21 June 1993] the detailed budget for the companies will be given to the Majles.

Consequently the Majles was custodian, charged first of all to exercise greater care in the budgets of the government companies themselves in order to prevent excess expenditures and waste, and, second, this fever that has been created that says government companies want to form satellite companies must be stopped. That is, the Majles has announced its opinion on this.

He then added: I think that for those companies that now have the option of doing such a thing, God willing, we must prepare a motion and take this option away from them, because there are already a lot of bills in the Majles now, and all the government companies are standing in line to form new companies. At a time when there are plans to turn the work over to the people, and all the companies, including the communications company, have the right and are able to turn the work over to the private sector, the argument that we want to form companies with private sector participation so that the work will be done by them is logical. The public treasury's resources will not be preserved here. When the private sector becomes a partner with the government, this is a lucky man. He will never lose, because a government company is in very good circumstances.

Morteza Nabavi noted: If we are going not to have monopolies, create competition,and preserve the interest

of the public treasury, we must certainly authorize the government to create a company within a company.

In discussing this bill, Engineer Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, said: The amendment to Article 7 of this law says: "In carrying out the responsibilities and duties in this law, the Communications Company may, using its capital or in cooperation with other government institutions, form an institution in the form of a corporation."

He also said: The government is saying that the private (nongovernment) sector should come and cooperate with us. This will be beneficial. As for the idea that everything should remain as a government monopoly, we say that all these things will be supervised by the Majles, but we will open the way. Now, our options are completely closed off to us. That is, we cannot do anything.

Eng. Gharazi added: I ask that the respected Majles to vote for this bill, so that we will make investment and technology available for communications, so we can attract people. Of course, according to regulations, we must exercise supervision to prevent anyone from committing abuses.

After the talk by the minister of post, telegraph and telephone, the general form of the bill was put to a vote and approved.

Proposed Law To Amend Articles From the Majles Internal Guidelines

The report from the first consultation of the Internal Guidelines Preparation Commission on the Proposed Law To Amend Articles From the Majles Internal Guidelines was the third item on the agenda.

In this regard, a number of deputies called for tabling the motion for four months.

In discussing this proposal, Engineer Bahonar said: Amending the internal guidelines entails some of the guidelines that concern duties, titles, and the number of Majles specialist commissions. Because approval of the motion will create many changes in the Majles, the manner of dealing with important bills such as the Budget Law and the Second Five-Year Plan and all of these things may change, but we felt, in view of the Second Five-Year Plan and its great importance, if we want to change the approach and the composition of the commissions, due to the fact that this will be a unique task and it may not fall into place quickly for the deputies and that we will not justify the new method of operation, it is therefore recommended that this motion be tabled for three or four months so that the heavy tasks the Majles has before it will continue to be done under the same existing system in the Majles and the commissions.

After a talk by an opponent, the motion to table the bill was put to a vote and approved.

Proposed Law To Centralize Tehran Taxi Services Under Mayoral Supervision

The next item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Councils Commission concerning the Bill To Append a Note to Article 1 of the Bill To Centralize Tehran Taxi Services Under the Mayor's Supervision enacted 3/28/1356 [18 June 1977] by the Revolutionary Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the general form of which was approved by the deputies.

The note to the above law says: Taxi affairs in the nation's other cities (supervising the various kinds of urban taxi services) are managed by the respective mayor's offices, and all conflicting laws and regulations are void. The executive guidelines for this note will be prepared by the National Municipalities Council and implemented after approval by the minister of the interior. [passage omitted on the letter from the deputy from Hamadan concerning the UNESCO secretary-general's support for Salman Rushdie]

Letter from 140 deputies concerning the return of the motion to eliminate appeals on the opinions issued by the seven-person councils concerning temporary cultivation to the Expediency Discernment Council.

A letter was read out in today's Majles session addressed to the president and signed by 140 deputies. Calling on [President] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the head of the Expediency Discernment Council, to take into account the importance of agriculture and the need for security and stability in agriculture, the letter asks the Expediency Discernment Council to give out-of-turn priority to the draft bill calling for the cancellation of the judgments of the Administrative Court of Justice concerning lands under temporary cultivation. [Reference to ruling by Administrative Court of Justice authorizing return of some confiscated lands back to original owners; in retaliation the Majles passed a bill calling for cancellation of the judgments; this bill was vetoed by the Council of Guardians.]